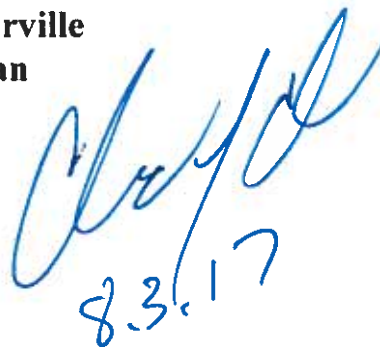


Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2017

**Chad J Courville
Chairman**



Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not verbatim transcripts of the proceedings.

Audio files of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 765-2806

AGENDA
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

July 6, 2017 - 9:30 A.M.

Page

- 1 Call to Order
 - 2 Pledge of Allegiance
 - 3 Roll Call
 - 4 Adoption of June 08, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes and June 12, 2017 Special Commission Meeting Minutes
 - 5 Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege
 - 6 Enforcement Report June, 2017
 - 7 Presentation of Mississippi Flyway Council Waterfowl Enforcement Officer of the Year Award
 - 8 Receive LDWF's response to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's 2017 Master Plan
 - 9 Presentation of update on the white-fronted goose research project: progress and plans for 2017-18 field season
 - 10 Progress report on cooperative breeding habitat work in Saskatchewan and an update on current breeding habitat conditions in prairie Canada
 - 11 Presentation on proposed Sterlet Sturgeon operation
 - 12 Consider a Notice of Intent to Modify the Recreational Bag Limit and Set the Opening Date of the Commercial Season for King Mackerel
 - 13 Presentation on La Creel and red snapper harvest estimates
 - 14 Receive update on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's June Meeting
 - 15 Receive a presentation on the background of the Bohemia Salinity Control Structure
 - 16 Set time and location for August, 2017 Commission Meeting
 - 17 Set November, 2017 Commission Meeting Date
 - 18 Receive Public Comments
 - 19 Adjournment
- Appendices

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

Thursday, July 6, 2017

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was **Called to Order** at 9:30 AM on July 6, 2017 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building in the Louisiana Room by **Chairman, Chad J Courville**.

Commissioner Hogan led the meeting attendees in the **Pledge of Allegiance**. **Chairman Courville** then asked for everyone to remain standing and observe a moment of private prayer.

Chairman Courville asked Commission Secretary Angela Thomas to conduct a **Roll Call**. The following Commissioners were present:

Chad Courville

Bill Hogan

Bart Yakupzack

Pat Manuel

Bobby Samanie

Jerri Smitko

Al Sunseri

Secretary Jack Montoucet was also present.

Chairman Courville called for a motion for **Adoption of the June 8, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes and June 12, 2017 Special Commission Meeting Minutes**. A motion for approval on both was made by **Commissioner Yakupzack** and seconded by **Commissioner Smitko**. **Chairman Courville** called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Courville called for **Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege**. **Commissioner Sunseri** said that Congressman Scalise was back in the intensive care unit and asked for everyone to keep he and his family in their prayers. Secretary Montoucet said that he hopes that everyone had a good 4th of July holiday and that the fishing was good. He enjoyed some red snapper himself over the holiday. **Chairman Courville** welcomed Secretary Montoucet back to the U.S. after his vacation in

Canada. There being no other announcements, **Chairman Courville** reminded all attendees that, if anyone would like to make a comment or address the Commission, there are comment cards in the back of the room. Please fill out a card if you wish to speak and provide to Ms. Thomas.

Captain Edward Skena presented the **Enforcement Reports for June, 2017**. There were 13 boating incidents, 8 injuries and no fatalities. In June, there were 880 written citations, 508 written warnings and 40 public assists. News releases for some cases that were made last month included LDWF enforcement agents cited two Buras men for alleged gillnet violations in Plaquemines Parish on June 10, both subjects were cited for illegal use/possession of a gillnet in a saltwater area and resisting an officer; an enforcement agent rescued three people from a sinking vessel in Vermilion Bay on the morning of June 27, a 55 year old New Iberia man, 14 year old boy and 11 year old boy were rescued from a 20 foot shrimp vessel that began sinking after striking a submerged object; and LDWF agents arrested a Bayou Dularge man for alleged drug and commercial fishing violations on June 27 in Terrebonne Parish, the subject was arrested for using oversized skimmer nets, possession of marijuana, possession of meth, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a firearm while in possession of a controlled dangerous substance, and possession of nongame birds.

Chairman Courville announced that the recipient of the **Mississippi Flyway Council Waterfowl Enforcement Officer of the Year Award** was unable to attend the meeting and this agenda item was postponed to August.

The next agenda item, **Receive LDWF's response to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's 2017 Master Plan**, was a joint effort by both the Wildlife Division and the Fisheries Division. Mr. Harry Blanchet of the Fisheries Management Division was first to present to the Commission. Mr. Blanchet presented a PowerPoint Presentation to illustrate to the Commission the biological impacts of the projects outlined in CPRA's Master Plan, overlapping areas of influence and the cooperative efforts between the Department and CPRA. A copy of Mr. Blanchet's presentation is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes. Questions and comments were held until after the Wildlife Division's presentation on this agenda item.

Mr. Todd Baker of the Wildlife Management Division then presented to the Commission. Mr. Baker presented a PowerPoint Presentation to illustrate to the Commission the impacts of the sediment diversion projects outlined in CPRA's Master Plan and specific wildlife species including, but not limited to, alligator, brown pelican, mottled duck, gadwall and green-winged teal. A copy of Mr. Baker's presentation is

included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes. After both presentations were complete, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Sunseri said he had some questions for Mr. Harry Blanchet. He stated that he noticed that Mr. Blanchet's presentation showed only the impact of the Breton Sound without the Mid-Barataria, which is going to be first. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if anything had been done with Mid-Barataria and, if so, if there was a big difference in their findings from what was seen in today's presentation. Mr. Blanchet responded that if Commissioner Sunseri was speaking about state government as a whole, then yes. CPRA looked at a lot of different combinations of diversions as part of that delta management project that was mentioned during the presentation as a scoping thing. And, yes, there are differences if there is more than one. Mr. Blanchet said a lot of that gets back to the hydrology and he was not comfortable talking about that part of it. However, he did want to take-off of one point that Todd Baker made during his presentation and that was about harvest. A lot of times what is seen on the landscape is the people that are actually harvesting the species are not necessarily responding to the number of fish in the water but the number of fish that they can catch. One of the initiatives that has been done recently with the LA Creel project is, for the first time, biologists are going to be able to look at how many fish of a species are coming from a specific basin as opposed to saying a certain number of a species of fish were caught in the state of Louisiana. Biologists are now going to be able to say we caught 300,000 of a particular species of fish out of the Barataria Basin. That kind of specificity is going to be very important going forward, trying to look at what the actual impacts of these are for some of these species as people see them as harvesters. **Commissioner Sunseri** said that he appreciates that but that it comes to Mid-Barataria being the first one and why we didn't see what it would be like approximately 2 years later that we should be looking at Breton Sound and what we saw in all that red. But that didn't really show what was going to happen because the other one, Mid-Barataria, is going to be online first. Mr. Blanchet replied that the reason that he showed Breton Sound was because the other side of the river was not as clear on the Barataria system. It was simpler graphics to show Breton Sound. If you were to flip sides of the river, you're going to see, in the broad term, some very similar trends. The specifics will differ but the trends are going to be the same. By the time the EIS is finished, there will be a better handle on what the actual distributions of those salinities and all of the underlying biology is going to have. **Commissioner Sunseri** said that it is real important, the economic impact as well as the cost benefit, for those that enjoy utilizing the wildlife and fisheries in the state, both recreationally and commercially, how everyone will be affected and what's going to happen to the migratory habitat and the nursery grounds for all these different fish species. The EIS cost benefit is important. **Commissioner Sunseri** said that he's truly concerned about it being a positive economic impact, especially when we look at the protection that the people are going to get because that is the goal.

He believes that, more than anything, CPRA and its goal is to protect people in coastal Louisiana through the \$50 billion worth of different projects. And, if we are going to do it, let's make sure that we are actually going to be able to do what it's supposed to do and protect people in coastal Louisiana. **Commissioner Sunseri** stated that he was really concerned with this little storm like Cindy. Had Mid-Barataria been operating for 10 years, would it have done anything more to have protected people in Lafitte or Myrtle Grove or Port Sulphur had that little storm been there and that project been operating for that long? **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if our wildlife and fisheries are going to be impacted negatively and it's not going to protect the people, what the heck are we doing?

Mr. Paul Link, the Department's NAWMP Coordinator, was next to appear before the Commission to make a **Presentation of update on the white-fronted goose research project: progress and plans for 2017-18 field season**. Mr. Link gave an update on the white-fronted geese that were caught, tagged and released in 2015, the data that was collected over the time they were monitored, the trapping of these same geese in 2016 and the progress and plans for the 2017-2018 field season. Mr. Link included a PowerPoint Presentation with his discussion, a copy of which is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes. After the presentation, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Yakupzack said he wanted to thank Paul and the rest of the waterfowl team at LDWF. Everyone can agree this is cutting edge research and it's proven by the advances annually of the technology that Paul is trying to use to track these birds. He asked Mr. Link what would be the best way for donors that wish to participate in the project to coordinate with him. Mr. Paul Link replied that it would be best for them to contact either **Commissioner Bart Yakupzack** or **Chairman Chad Courville**. Donors can then be routed through the various organizations that have been established that can accept a tax deductible charitable donation. Mr. Link said he'd prefer it if they contact Commissioner Yakupzack and Chairman Courville to handle the finances. **Commissioner Yakupzack** then asked, with the advancement of the technology, have the cost of the units increased. Mr. Link said no, the costs have remained the same. They are actually talking about reducing the price for this year's transmitters simply because the technology has advanced along with supply and demand. There may be a couple hundred dollars' decrease in the price of the collars this year.

Commissioner Hogan asked about the cost of a unit. Mr. Link replied that each unit is \$3,000 and then there is a cost of \$300 a year for a cell phone plan. Each unit has its own cell phone plan for transmitting data.

Commissioner Smitko asked who is manufacturing the units. Mr. Link responded that it is a company named CellTrak.

Chairman Courville stated that it might be good to add **Commissioner Hogan** as the contact for North Louisiana because it sounded like a few of those birds spent a little time in Mer Rouge. Mr. Link said yes, a lot of them spent a lot of time in Northeast Louisiana. **Chairman Courville** said that it might generate some interest in those guys becoming donors. The benefit of being a donor is you get to assess a name or place a name on that bird and it becomes a conversation piece for the whole season. He thinks a lot of the donors like that aspect of it. **Chairman Courville** thanked Mr. Link for all his work and the staff at the Department.

Mr. Pat Kehoe and Mr. Dave Kustersky with Ducks Unlimited Canada presented the next agenda item to the Commission, **Progress report on cooperative breeding habitat work in Saskatchewan and an update on current breeding habitat conditions in prairie Canada**. Mr. Pat Kehoe was first to address the Commissioners and began by showing a video that gave an overview of the partnership between Louisiana and Ducks Unlimited Canada. After Mr. Kehoe's presentation and comments, Mr. Dave Kustersky presented the Commissioners with the annual Conservation Report. A copy of the annual Conservation Report is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes. After the presentation, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions from the Commission. There were none.

Mr. Johnny Ledet of Ledet's Louisiana Seafood in Natchitoches, Louisiana, introduced the next agenda item to the Commission, **Presentation on proposed Sterlet Sturgeon operation**. Mr. Ledet thanked the Commission for the opportunity to appear and present their plans. Mr. Ledet then turned the presentation over to his associate, Ms. Liz Kinet. Ms. Kinet also thanked the Commission for affording them the opportunity to present their plans. Ms. Kinet provided an overview of their business, which consists of 3 components – the indoor aquaculture facility (which includes processing caviar), the hotel operations which includes seafood and specialty meats, and the retail facility located in the front where they will be selling shrimp, crawfish, specialty meats and other goods. The source of brood stock they are going to have is from Sturgeon Aquafarms located in Foscom, Florida. It will be delivered by truck from Sturgeon Aquafarms and raised by Ledet's until the fish are sexually mature for harvesting. Ledet's will harvest the row and process the caviar under the supervision of biologists from Sturgeon Aquafarms. The remaining sterlet will be smoked and packed and shipped as instructed by Sturgeon Aquafarms. These fish are fifth generation. They are not from the wild. They are disease free and they are all natural. The feed that will be used will be utilized by the facility, will be the same proprietary blend developed by Sturgeon Aquafarms

which is natural feed, free of hormones, antibiotics and other pollutants. The proposed facility is going to be an approximately 35,000 sq. ft. warehouse. It's going to be a fully enclosed warehouse made of steel, 30-gauge sheet metal and it will host the retail, the offices, the processing, the cooking and the refrigeration. The back area will hold the tanks. The tanks are custom 16' x 32' rectangular tanks with interior rounding corners that will be utilized. Each tank holds about 12,000 gallons of water and a recirculating aquaculture system will be used so to minimize water usage and minimize waste. No water from the tanks will leave the facility. The location of the facility is in a newly designated area of Industrial Park in Natchitoches. By allowing us to bring this process to Louisiana, it benefits Natchitoches, it benefits Louisiana, it benefits Northwestern University. Tax revenues will be generated that are desperately needed, not only in Natchitoches, but also in the state. A variety of people will be employed and internships for biology students at Northwestern University will also be provided. Educating the community about ecotourism and conservationism through tours and presentations at the facility and work with Northwestern University is also planned. After the presentation, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Manuel asked Ms. Kinet if Ledet's is requesting funding from the Department. Ms. Kinet said zero dollars is being requested.

Commissioner Yakupzack thanked Ms. Kinet for the presentation and asked what is their end goal. He appreciated the informative presentation but wanted to know if there is something this Commission can do to help. He also asked where they are with the Department and this project. Ms. Kinet replied that they are still waiting for the approval to add the sterlet to the domesticated organism list. **Commissioner Yakupzack** asked Assistant Secretary to Fisheries Patrick Banks for more information. Assistant Secretary Banks replied that is the request of Ledet's and a Notice of Intent will be brought to the Commission to consider a couple of meetings from now. It's not to that point yet, but wanted to give Ledet's the opportunity to come and explain their process and their business. In order for them to be able to bring in the sterlet from out of state, because sterlet is an invasive species and not native to Louisiana, that species, much like tilapia many years ago, would have to be added to Louisiana's domesticated aquatic organisms list. That is a Commission action that would be required and it would be up to the Commission whether to allow that so they could bring that species into Louisiana.

Commissioner Smitko asked if once it is added to the list if the Commission gets to go further than that and say they have to build this redundancy into the system and undertake this type of aquaculture. Assistant Secretary Banks replied that they certainly could, the Department can provide it with the permit that they

would get. A lot of types of controls can be built within the system. He said that there's never going to be complete control, but much like tilapia when tilapia was introduced into Louisiana, nobody ever dreamed that Hurricane Katrina would come through and release that animal into the wild and they've had a terrible time controlling it as well. There is not a control for every type of possible situation. The Department can put a lot of controls in place in this case if the Commission decides they want to allow that species to be brought in. **Commissioner Smitko** said if they were to assume that the Commission would put it on the list and these individuals get a license or permit, it still doesn't mean that just anybody can do it. Each person still has to apply. Assistant Secretary Banks replied that was correct. Ms. Kinet stated that the likelihood of another organization being able to farm sterlet in Louisiana is practically nil because, currently, Sturgeon Aquafarms in Florida is the only facility in the United States that does it and Ledet's will be have an exclusive contract with them. Commissioner Smitko asked Ms. Kinet if it is a subsidiary arrangement. Ms. Kinet said no, it is not a subsidiary arrangement, it's a partnership, a services agreement.

Chairman Courville asked that at an upcoming Commission meeting if Assistant Secretary Banks would have one of his staff members give the Commission an update on the standards that are customary with this so they can be more familiar with what's expected of a facility. He would like for the Commission to get more familiar with that and he thinks it would be a good stepping stone as Ledet's moves forward with a Notice of Intent. Assistant Secretary Banks said they certainly can do that. He reminded Chairman Courville that it will be a Notice of Intent for the Commission to consider and, even if they decide to pass the NOI, there's still the public notice process to go through and he'd like to have public meetings and things like that. This is just the start of the process. This is not a Declaration of Emergency or anything like that.

Commissioner Yakupzack said he wanted to add in closing that he appreciated Ledet's coming forward with this presentation now, ahead of a suggestion of a Notice of Intent. It gives the Commissioners time to think about it and put it in focus. Then when the Notice of Intent comes to them for consideration, they at least have that back ground.

Mr. Jason Adriance, Biologist and Finfish Program Manager, was next to appear before the Commission on **Consider a Notice of Intent to Modify the Recreational Bag Limit and Set the Opening Date of the Commercial Season for King Mackerel**. Mr. Adriance presented the Notice of Intent which included proposed changes to the existing rule by modifying the recreational bag and possession limit of king mackerel from two fish to three fish per person per day, to modify existing king commercial harvest regulations by establishing in rule the commercial season for the harvest of king mackerel to begin on July

1 of each year and provide authority to the Secretary of the Department to modify the commercial season should it be modified in the adjacent waters of the EEZ. Following Mr. Adriance's presentation, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions from the Commission. There were none.

Motion was made to approve and adopt the Notice of Intent to Modify the Recreational Bag Limit and Set the Opening Date of the Commercial Season for King Mackerel by **Commissioner Samanie** and seconded by **Commissioner Hogan**. **Chairman Courville** called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

{The full text of the Notice of Intent
is made part of the record}

NOTICE OF INTENT
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Daily Take and Possession Limits of King and Spanish Mackerel and Cobia
(LAC 76:VII.327)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.327) by modifying the recreational bag and possession limit of king mackerel from two fish to three fish per person per day. Proposed changes further modify existing king commercial harvest regulations by establishing in rule the commercial season for the harvest of king mackerel to begin on July 1 of each year and provide authority to the Secretary of the Department to modify the commercial season should it be modified in the adjacent waters of the EEZ. Authority for amendment of this Rule is included in the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:320.2, 56:326.1, and 56:326.3 to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Title 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§327. Daily Take and Possession Limits of King and Spanish Mackerel and Cobia

A

B. The recreational bag limit for the possession of king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*) whether caught within or without the territorial waters of Louisiana shall be ~~two~~three fish per person, per day.

C –E 4...

5. The season for the commercial harvest of king mackerel shall open on July 1 of each year and remain open until the allotted portion of the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or is projected to be harvested.

6. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized, upon notification of the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, to open, close, re-open, or re-close the commercial season for the harvest of king mackerel when informed of such a season modification in the adjacent waters of the EEZ by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:325.1 and R.S. 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 15:868 (October 1989), amended LR 17:207 (February 1991), LR 19:513 (April 1993), LR 26:2633 (November 2000), LR 26:2833 (December 2000), LR 43:_____.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act No. 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issue its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S.49:973

Provider Impact Statement

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to Jason Adriance, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, or via e-mail to jadriance@wlf.la.gov prior to Thursday, September 7, 2017.

Chad J. Courville
Chairman

Mr. Adriance also presented the next agenda item to the Commission, **Presentation on LA Creel and red snapper harvest estimates**. Before getting started, **Chairman Courville** recognized Representative Bishop, one of the individuals that helped enable the Department to have the LA Creel Program, who was present at the meeting. He made note that Representative Bishop and Senator Allain were instrumental in having the vision to establish LA Creel, along with the staff at the Department, and although it wasn't popular to increase license fees, appreciation was expressed to both Representative Bishop and Senator Allain for what they did for the State. **Chairman Courville** invited Representative Bishop to say a few words. Representative Bishop said that they definitely took some lumps and he thinks he spent more time doing interviews and radio talk shows trying to explain to the people of Louisiana why exactly we were going to go up \$7.50 on our salt water license. Bottom line is today we have seen results on what he and Senator Allain did. Representative Bishop said that, in the legislature, it's not often that you can have the foresight to figure out how to fix a problem 2-3 years down the road and continue working on it. It's usually knee jerk reaction, we are going to fix it right now and that doesn't always mean that's the correct way. This was one of those bills. He thanked Secretary Montoucet, Governor Edwards, the Commission and several congressmen for finally getting to a point where we are moving forward with our red snapper and we are showing the people that the investment they made in their salt water fishing license is absolutely paying off. He thinks the people of Louisiana are really excited about the potential. He thanked **Chairman Courville** for having him here today and he looked forward to the presentation.

Mr. Adriance then proceeded with his presentation to the Commission. Mr. Adriance first provided a presentation on the LA Creel program, how it came to be, its purpose, design, the key elements, survey methodology, timeline to generate estimates, the data, the differences between LA Creel and MRIP, and the benefits of LA Creel. Mr. Adriance included a PowerPoint Presentation specific to LA Creel with his discussion, a copy of which is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes. Following Mr. Adriance's presentation on LA Creel, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Yakupzack thanked Mr. Adriance for his presentation and asked if he could give any inclination as to what may have attributed to there being nearly 2 million more speckled trout caught in 2016 versus 2014. Mr. Adriance replied that it's been a couple good years and that landing rates will cycle with population. **Commissioner Yakupzack** asked if a difference of 2 million fish are pretty normal. Mr. Adriance responded yes.

Chairman Courville said he had a couple of questions for Mr. Adriance and asked if he knew where they stood on MRIP certification. Mr. Adriance replied that it's still ongoing. They've still got provisional

certification, mainly for dockside intercepts, and they're still working toward certification. They're in consultation with NOAA. **Chairman Courville** continued his questions by asking about the confidence intervals and getting the data back faster from the contractor. He asked if it is about money and time or if it is just the simple, physical nature of processing the data. Mr. Adriance replied that it is just the physical nature of it. They have to wait until that week of fishing is over so they can ask about that week. Then getting in contact with people takes that next week. **Chairman Courville** asked if there is a way to speed up that process. The presentation said the best case scenario is somewhere between 9 and 11 days in getting it all done. He asked if it cost any more money to get it done in 9 days than it would 11 days. Mr. Adriance replied no. **Chairman Courville** then asked, on the ROLP holders, if more phone calls and emails would tighten confidence intervals or more of dockside intercepts. He asked which is the more critical component could it be squeezed. It appears LA Creel is a lot better than MRIP but is that the best we can do for the money? Is there a money exchange there? Mr. Adriance said yes. In order to get those tighter and make more phone calls, more dockside intercepts, than more funds will be expended to do that. **Chairman Courville** then asked if it was safe to assume that we feel pretty confident that, given that we are perceived to be that much better than MRIP, it's an acceptable tolerance there. Mr. Adriance said that they designed it looking at some of those return rates, how many folks have to be pulled on that effort side to get within those confidence intervals that they are happy with and right now, yes. **Chairman Courville** commented that maybe polling more people might not squeeze that down significantly enough to make a difference in the big picture. Mr. Adriance said that they'd have to look and see how many they have to get to start making an impact.

Commissioner Smitko asked if there was any reason why the data from LA Creel for yellow fin would be so vastly different than MRIP. Mr. Adriance replied that they designed those offshore strata. For example, MRIP may be at Venice once a month and if they didn't see a tuna trip in that 6-hour window they were there then there were no yellow fin harvested that month. With LA Creel, they are just there. They are there weekly, they encounter more of those trips, they put their hands on more of those fish.

Secretary Montoucet asked Mr. Adriance what is the margin of error on our LA Creel system. Mr. Adriance responded that those surveys are designed to look at 30%, that's on the effort side. On the dockside, depending on how many of those species you encounter. Like you saw the inshore species that we encounter very much, those error rates are very low. Secretary Montoucet said the reason he asked is because he's been doing a lot of reading and questioning himself on how do we tighten that up. If we've got a margin of error of 20%, then we could be leaving 20% of the fish out there that our fishermen could be catching. The closer we can get it to zero error, the more fish our people are eligible to catch at the end

of the day. Secretary Montoucet continued by saying that is the reason he has been pursuing all of this other technology that might be out there that we can look at to reduce that margin of error so we can give our fishermen more fish to catch. He said that he saw that Texas A&M has a program they are developing for cell phones and he knows that Alabama and Mississippi are utilizing that, too. Secretary Montoucet continued by saying that we've been looking at that and talking about it, asking themselves would that be a way of maybe reducing that margin of error. At the end of the day, he wants our fishermen to catch all the fish that we have coming to us, not just leaving them out there because of a margin of error that our system has. LA Creel, by far, is the best system we have in the country. But if you stop at some point and say that's good enough, in his book it's not good enough because we are not catching all of the fish that we've got coming to us and our fishermen are eligible to catch. Is there some possibility there? Have you looked at that? Mr. Adriance replied that we can certainly look at that and we are starting to look at some of those things. We'd obviously have to do some serious quality control and validation of some of those methods to see if it does it help and that it doesn't give us a better answer.

With no additional questions on LA Creel, Mr. Adriance then moved on to a separate presentation on the 2017 Recreational Red Snapper Season Update, which included the basis for Louisiana's self-imposed quota, the current harvest estimates and landings projections. Mr. Adriance included a PowerPoint Presentation specific to the 2017 Recreational Red Snapper Season with his discussion, a copy of which is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes. Following Mr. Adriance's presentation, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Yakupzack asked Mr. Adriance to clarify the year of the projection he was using that would end the season very shortly and how many daily landing pounds that assumes. Mr. Adriance replied that it is about 19,000 pounds and it is from last year.

Chairman Courville stated that he had a couple of things that he wanted to bring to everyone's attention. First that we received a letter from Congressman Graves' office basically asking us to stick to our total allowable catches, as the group had expressed interest in doing. In addition, **Chairman Courville** sent a thank you letter on behalf of the Commission to Secretary Ross for this opportunity. He had a couple of questions on the rate because it's in the best interest and the Commission and the Department have expressed interest to honor the Congressman's request. **Chairman Courville** asked what the average pounds per day seen since the 39-day season has opened for federally permitted charter boats and for private recreational fishermen. Mr. Adriance said it has been about 3,700 pounds per day for the charter boats. That is for that federal open period. It doesn't separate out state charter and federal. The daily

private landing rate is about 4,700 pounds per day. **Chairman Courville** said the Secretary has been given authority to close the season when the rate gets close to 1.04 million pounds and asked Mr. Adriance when he anticipated receipt of the data from this past week and 4th of July holiday. Mr. Adriance said the best they can do is look at those as they come in. He said that just looking at the dockside rates they can't really make any guesses. Because the long holiday weekend split over two weeks, they are going to come in as two separate estimates so they will get about half of that holiday period next week and the other half that following week. **Chairman Courville** asked what was the earliest they can get an update on the current estimated catch or actuals from LA Creel and for what ending week would that be. Mr. Adriance said that it would probably come in Tuesday (July 11) of next week and that would be for the week ending July 2nd. **Chairman Courville** spoke about the 1.04 million pounds that is believed to be our historical catch, in addition to the current state and federal sampling and monitoring that's going on with the red snapper stock, and all of the reef fish stock, and asked what additional sampling or monitoring would need to be done in order to verify whether 1.04 million pounds is the right number or should it be more or less. An answer was not needed today but at some point he believes it would be incumbent upon us because there are a lot of people that are looking at this 39-day effort and looking to criticize it. **Chairman Courville** also thinks it's incumbent upon us as a state, by taking the initiative under LA Creel, he suggested we take the initiative to monitor the health of our red snapper stock or maybe our reef fish stock off the coast of Louisiana to know if we are having a positive or negative impact on those species. **Chairman Courville** then said the last thing he had was with regard to the intent of the 39-day season is to get us to Labor Day. He stated that the reason he asks for daily catches is after the 16th or 19th, the season ends for the federally permitted charter guys. Mr. Adriance said that was correct. **Chairman Courville** then stated that he was not suggesting favor for or against this, but through LA Creel, but asked if they would have the opportunity to forego a few weekends of fishing to have fishing open on Labor Day holiday when the kids are out of school. **Chairman Courville** asked if we are nimble enough to be able to pull that off or if that is a pie in the sky? Mr. Adriance said that they certainly have that authority. The kicker is, as the Chairman mentioned, weekly estimates are coming in 9 days later. The question of where you adjust for hitting that bullseye becomes a little more of a fine art than science. **Chairman Courville** said that he agreed. Maybe some of the answers to questions that he posed today might get us to a point where we might want to do something like that. He said again that he was not saying that he was in favor or against it but felt that it would be nice to know if we could do something like that if it is there and it is available and see what our anglers would prefer. He asked that, to honor the request here and the intent, as soon as Mr. Adriance can get the data to the Commission and then when the Department is comfortable getting it out to the public. We've got Mr. Pratt here but a coordinated effort to try and inform the public, to get information out to the public so folks don't think well, I don't really need to go today because I got a ball game or

whatever. It sure would appear there's a chance that we are not going to make it to the Labor Day holiday with this 39-day season and our self-imposed 1.04 million pounds. And the Chairman said that he was still at the point of when we get close and we know that daily take of the private recreational angler, since we are just going to be looking at 3 days of harvest after the federally permitted charter guys are done, how much are we sort of risking if we miss it by a weekend on overshooting our self-imposed quota. That would be nice to get a sense for are we talking about would we wreck it and everybody goes nuts and would we really wreck it? That level of precision, we're trying to catch lightning in a bottle here, but **Chairman Courville** said he wants to make our best effort, if we can. He knows the Department is committed to doing that but he'd like to give some reasonable expectations to the public and to everybody watching this under a microscope of what is reasonable and that Louisiana is making every reasonable effort to stay at our historical catch. Mr. Harry Blanchet said he had a couple of points to make. They will have the landings for the season well before we get to Labor Day. That's going to be done. However, they are still not going to be able to know what their estimates would be for that 3-day season until they know what the weather forecast is going to be for that 3-day season. **Chairman Courville** said sure, and we also still have the option for a state season in October if we have a tropical storm or hurricane during the Labor Day holiday. That has been maintained right through this effort. He said he was just lobbying it out there. If the public says no, that's a terrible idea, then we certainly don't need to consider it. But the mere fact that we have the ability to consider that is a really big deal and a testament to LA Creel and to the Department's efforts. We don't know what this weather is going to do. Again it's catching lightning in a bottle. **Chairman Courville** said that he can appreciate that and he appreciates Mr. Blanchet and his guys doing their best to try and stick to this self-imposed quota and helping us make good decisions.

Secretary Montoucet asked **Chairman Courville**, so that the Department is very clear on this, if it is his intent for the Department to close the season when it has a clear picture that its reached our quota. **Chairman Courville** replied that he thinks, if not mistaken, the action the Commission took said that when the Department felt that the time was coming it would give notice to him and then he would notify the rest of the Commission and they would sort of concur with the Department. But the Commission has expressed what he believes is unanimous support with trying to stick to that 1.04 million pounds as our self-imposed quota, to the best of our ability within reason. Secretary Montoucet said he just wanted to be clear that if the day comes, and it's tomorrow or day after, he just wanted to be clear that the Department is going to take action for the wishes of the Commission. **Chairman Courville** said absolutely. He thinks this Commission has expressed that. He thinks they've been provided a request by at least one of our congressmen to do that and he thinks they voted, unless the Commission wants to take further action on that, but he thinks they've expressed their intent is to maintain our self-imposed 1.04 million pounds for

this year. He personally has asked the question of let's find out if the health of our snapper stock can handle more than 1.04 million pounds moving in the future, but this year it's incumbent upon us and he thinks they've voted to adhere to that 1.04 million pounds. Secretary Montoucet said we're going to stay on top of it as close as we can, as fast as we can so that we can make sure that we honor those commitments. **Chairman Courville** said we appreciate you guys' efforts. We've got the tools, we might as well use them and demonstrate how to responsibly manage fish.

Myron Fischer, Biologist, Office of Fisheries, presented the next agenda item for the Commission to **Receive Update on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's June Meeting**. Mr. Fischer provided the Commissioners with an overview of the action items taken at the Gulf Council's June Meeting. A copy of Mr. Fischer's PowerPoint Presentation is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes. After the presentation, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Yakupzack asked where the next meeting will be held. Mr. Fischer said that the next meeting will be in San Antonio, Texas.

Chairman Courville asked if there were any additional questions from the Commission. There being, none, he called for **Public Comments**.

Mr. Richard Fischer of Cut Off, Louisiana, and representing the Louisiana Charter Boat Association, was first to address the Commission. He said he wanted to let the three members of the delegation from Louisiana on the Council know that he did a brief poll of some of the charter fishermen the past week. However, it was not the best week to get people on the phone with red snapper season going on. He said in terms of amberjack and the potential management structures that they would like, they got a slight majority, maybe 60/40 would be in favor of opening amberjack season in the spring, then closing it in the summer and then re-opening it kind of later in the summer. The other would be keeping it closed all the way through mid-summer and then opening it after that. He thought maybe 60% and that was a smaller sample size then he would have liked being in favor of opening in spring, closing it and then re-opening it. The big point he wanted to make in regard to amberjack is about the potential plan from Florida with fractional management. Our captains, the vast majority of them, are staunchly opposed to that. We have a different business model here. When you come to Louisiana to deep sea fish, that's the crown jewel of fish. You are taking a bunch of meat home. He really wanted to get that message across. One quick thing on venting and descending tools. He talked to our captains and there is a consensus that they wouldn't be opposed to them if it could be proved to them that these things are actually going to work. They've got no

faith that these things will work so it would be incumbent on the Council to put classes in place, very detailed instructions in place, make it easy for them to understand this is how you use them for them to be effective for them to buy in to wanting to make the purchase.

Mr. Ed Swindell from Hammond, Louisiana, and a Member of the Gulf Council, was next to address the Commission. He wanted to make a comment on the venting tools and descending tools. He said that we (the Gulf Council) have a technical committee of the outreach and education management committee on the Council. There's a tech committee that's going to have a meeting at the end of this month in Tampa to discuss just that problem, how to get this information out to the users of these tools to see if we can't improve the chance of red snapper survival if you have to release them. Mr. Swindell then spoke about one of the things that he came up here for that he wanted to just mention that Myron left off of his presentation was that all 5 states were asked to present their information on their methods of collecting data relative to the MRIP, which is the Marine Recreational Information Program that is used by the federal government. Everybody except maybe Florida and Texas didn't really have much to say about it, but Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama all had great differences between what the MRIP data showed and what their data showed. They are all working hard on programs to come up with a much better information gathering system on the red snapper.

Chairman Courville asked for any additional questions or comments from the Commission or the public. Their being none, **Chairman Courville** said he had a couple of questions for both Mr. Myron Fischer and Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks. He said they were told that a red snapper stock assessment was recently conducted and asked when that information will be available. Mr. Jason Adriance responded that they've started that process and the assessment is due to be finished March 28 of next year. **Chairman Courville** asked if that would be 2018 and Mr. Adriance said that was correct. **Chairman Courville** said that he had some questions on what the Department's positions are going to be on these final actions. On Reef Fish Amendment 44, do we think this is good or bad? He said he was going to go through the whole list, that Myron Fischer had kind of hit the high points but he was curious. **Commissioner Manuel** suggested just a yes or no response rather than having to explain it. Mr. Fischer said that he can't remember which is which, but Reef Amendment 44 already went final. That was a recap of last meeting. **Chairman Courville** then asked about the Modification of the For-Hire and Private Angler Red Snapper Annual Catch Targets. Mr. Fischer said that is at the inception. **Chairman Courville** said then we've got a while. Mr. Fischer said if it could be done through framework it could possibly be done by 2018. If it has to go into a full born amendment, it's going to take at least a year. Even with framework, they may have a 60-day comment period from National Marine Fisheries, from the NOAA side. And that's what delays a lot of this. Just like

a Notice of Intent can get delayed here, he believes there are 3 different comment periods for these items. **Chairman Courville** then asked about 36B and if we think this is good or bad for Louisiana? Mr. Fischer replied that they don't know what's in it yet. It doesn't have all the options laid out in it, but being it's the contentious part of 36, 36A was simple, some of the language would be stop the sealords where people would have to fish. **Chairman Courville** stated that he suspects we think that's probably a good idea. Mr. Fischer said he thinks the state is very neutral on it and Patrick (Assistant Secretary Banks) can elaborate on that. But we don't know what the language is yet. Until you really see the action item one with a, b, c and d, then we'll discuss it and when all of us go into meetings we'll have this as what we are going to do. Then the first thing that happens is we get a substitute motion, then we get an amendment to the substitute motion then we amend that and it's nowhere near what we discussed. **Chairman Courville** said that he thinks, from the Commission's standpoint, whatever they can do to get them a better understanding of where the Department is leaning on these different amendments; because there is a lot of moving parts, and he appreciates that it evolves at each meeting. These updates are nice, but he thinks maybe the next step of what the Department is leaning towards or what you guys would ideally like to see and how that's reflective of our fleet, that next step would be nice to get. The Commissioners all have varying degrees of understanding of this but understanding where you guys are heading would help them. Assistant Secretary Banks said that the Commissioners will have another meeting prior to the August Council Meeting, so if they would like for he and Mr. Fischer to come and give a quick presentation on the final action items and which way we are leaning. **Chairman Courville** said that would be great. Assistant Secretary Banks said that he did want to say on the 36B issue that he's not a big proponent of sealords either, but that's a philosophical question and he wanted to make himself very clear to everyone. As a management system, that system works. We are spending an inordinate amount of time at the Council dealing with a system that works to manage fish and not concentrating on a system that does not work to manage fish. And that's the recreational sector. And his biggest problem with the Council right now is that he's being forced to go down this 36B road and spend all this time dealing with that system because people don't like the sealord concept. He doesn't like the sealord concept either but all of those fish are counted. We know how many fish are coming out of there. It's a system that works. We are wasting a lot of time at the Council dealing with that when we should be fixing a system that doesn't work. Assistant Secretary Banks said he looks forward to trying to fix the 36B issue, the IFQ system, but it's not, to him it's not the most pressing issue at the Council. It's very aggravating to have to deal with it every meeting when there's so many other low hanging fruit type things that need to be done. **Chairman Courville** said that was a good segue and told Assistant Secretary Banks that he could tell us how the Louisiana Amendment is progressing. Assistant Secretary Banks said that they had their first discussions of it at this past meeting so it's a slow process, unfortunately, and as much as we are trying to force it to go quicker by putting the time limits on the motion,

it's all up to the will of the Council as to how fast it can go. He said he was told by other state directors who didn't have their own amendment that they don't want to be left behind and he expressed to them that we didn't want to be held back by them not wanting to be left behind, so please get on board and help us move it forward. There was some discussion amongst the other state directors about whether to combine the Mississippi, the Alabama and the Louisiana only one into one amendment but none of us really felt comfortable doing that because we don't want something that another state doesn't like inhibiting us from moving forward. So we all were pretty much on the same page to let those go separately. We are the only state that has actually provided a draft document to the Council showing our options and what we would like to see. Obviously we have to look at all the different options under the NEPA process, but we expressed already to the Council staff what the document should look like for us. We are quite a way down the road. Assistant Secretary Banks said his concern is the Council is not going to let us get too far out ahead of the other states. While we started discussing it and it's going to be on the agenda this coming meeting, he doesn't know how far we'll get with it if the other states aren't as willing to move as fast as we are. **Chairman Courville** said fair enough and asked if it will likely be on the agenda for August. Assistant Secretary Banks said he requested it be on the agenda but they haven't received the agenda yet. He should know by the time we come before the Commission for the August meeting. **Chairman Courville** said great, thank you.

Patrick Banks, Assistant Secretary to the Office of Fisheries, presented the next agenda item for the Commission to **Receive a presentation on the background of the Bohemia Salinity Control Structure**. Assistant Secretary Banks provided the Commissioners with an overview of the location, the purpose of the structure and its historical background. A copy of Assistant Secretary Banks' PowerPoint Presentation is included in the **Appendices Section** of these Minutes. After the presentation, **Chairman Courville** asked for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Sunseri said he had some comments. Historically, this is the primary oyster seed ground of the state of Louisiana. About a million acres, if he was remembering correctly. The document from this Commission that authorized the funding stated that 80% of all the oyster seed in this state came from that area. And that's correct. Because of that, we have other influences, but none that have shown the demise of that public area since Hurricane Gustave. Because that was really the last year that we saw significant amount of seed and market oysters landed from those million primary oyster grounds east of the river. That's what the concern is for the Oyster Task Force. **Commissioner Sunseri** wanted to go on record and say he was not in favor of the Oyster Task Force funding the engineering and design because he didn't think there was any clarity as to what it was going to actually do, and was that going to take it to

fruition and to closure. He said he did oppose it. Other than himself, everyone voted in favor of that. Since that meeting, he's been in contact with the Corps of Engineers to talk to them about this whole project that's failed and he's also spoken to Congressman Graves about it, who, his understanding was that the congressman had spoken to members of the Oyster Task Force back in May and that he was supportive of its closure as well as the rest of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation. With that, **Commissioner Sunseri** said he was trying to see if we might be able to figure out some kind of funding mechanism that we can help get this particular place that is so important to the oyster industry in the state of Louisiana to be closed. He again wanted to go on record with this Commission and the public with where it stands, what the purpose of it this Bohemia Control Structure that's failed and during Mardi Gras time in 2011 when it began to overtop the levee and undermine and expand. He stated that we are in a situation that's critical to the oyster business in the state. The landings are down significantly and we have no longer a public resource that can be marketed, which is 40% of what used to be landed prior to this. It came mainly from those public oyster grounds east of the Mississippi River and then all see that's actually never been put into the equation of what was planted in various parishes from Terrebonne to St. Bernard and everywhere in between to develop the private leases that we have today in the state. **Commissioner Sunseri** thanked Mr. Banks for giving the history. He said he was hopeful that this Commission and this Department can help in taking some actions that can help repair the damages by closing this thing off. It's not part of the Master Plan and, as heard from the earlier presentation, there's a Breton Sound System that is going to be going into effect by 2022 we saw and we'll have a little better idea if we can get this done expeditiously and the impact that it'll have by having it closed.

Chairman Courville asked for additional questions from the Commission. There being none, he called for Public Comments.

Captain George Ricks, President of Save Louisiana Coalition, also a Coastal Consultant with St. Bernard Parish and also a Charter Captain for 18 years in St. Bernard area was first to address the Commission. Captain Ricks said he wanted to expand a bit on what Patrick said in his presentation on Bohemia Control Structure. What he didn't say is there's a lot of other problems that caused the salinity variance in the area. The problem with Bohemia Control Structure is that it's so high up in the estuary. As an example, Captain Ricks provided some insight of the flow rate. In 2013, its highest flow rate was 1,500 cubic feet per second. In May of this year it flowed 15,900 cubic feet per second. It's grown exponentially every day and it's flowing 24/7. As a charter captain he has never seen conditions as bad in Black Bay as they are right now. Some of the most prolific speckled trout spawning areas - Stone Island, Belle Island, Iron Banks - are no longer spawning areas. Stone Island this year, starting in June, salinity was a half per

one part per thousand. Speckled trout need 15 parts per thousand to reproduce. Captain Ricks said he is pleading with this Commission to do what they can do. The seriousness of the situation prompted St. Bernard Parish to make an emergency declaration to close it. They've been in constant contact and they've been working with Plaquemines in an effort and he would plead with this Commission to do what they can do to take care of the situation and get this control structure back in control because, eventually, it could cause navigation problems in the river cause it's going to get bigger and bigger all the time.

Mr. John Lopez of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation was next to address the Commission. At this point he didn't want to discuss the fisheries aspect. He said that is an important issue but he just wanted to point out that their studies documented that Mardi Gras Pass is delivering significant sediment and that sediment is being dispersed over a very large over they think beneficially over 15,000 acres of marsh are receiving sediment from Mardi Grass Pass. If you look at that area that it is delivering sediment to, it actually overlies almost entirely or substantially 3 different coastal Master Plan projects. There's a lower Breton Diversion just a couple miles downriver from this location that the Bohemia Structure or the Mardi Gras Pass. There is also a marsh creation at a bay {name unidentifiable} and then some marsh creation projects just up river that are also receiving sediment. The state's cost in the Coastal Master Plan in those 3 projects is \$1.4 billion. Once again, respecting that there are fisheries issues and, as stated earlier, one of the main motivations for the restoration projects in Louisiana is to recreate or restore land, this project or this delivery system is doing that and potentially cutoff that substantial portion of tax payer or federal funding for \$1.4 billion dollars' worth of projects.

Mr. Chris Macaluso of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership advised the Commission that he had some things he wanted to follow up on of what Mr. Lopez said about the sediment delivery of that system. He's been in that system a number of times since Mardi Gras Cut was opened up in 2011 and he said it is delivering a significant amount of sediment and that the marsh in that area is very healthy. He has also fished over there a number of times and he knows a number of other people that also fish in that area. In fact, he said he fished last week and they found a very healthy red fish population in the area adjacent to where Mardi Gras comes out in the area of the Bohemia Spillway. Some of the fish they cleaned had crawfish in their stomach so the red fish are in there eating crawfish and a number of other things that are being delivered by that system. It's an area that's become very popular with tournament red fish fishermen because the fish are very healthy, they've got a very healthy food source there, they are eating a number of things like crawfish, white shrimp, crabs, blue gill, just anything that the system can deliver. And the fact is they understand there is going to be changes in salinity regime and there's going to be changes coming with coastal restoration projects as they come on line, as we reintroduce the Mississippi River into areas

where it historically flowed, there are going to be changes salinity and it's going to move around some fisheries. But the bottom line is we have a sediment starved system in our coastal wetlands. Our wetlands are falling apart. Primarily because there is not enough sediment being delivered to them to offset the pace of the subsidence that they are experiencing. Salt water intrusion is a serious problem, as well. That's caused a tremendous amount of land loss and habitat loss for certain species. We are going to open a diversion in this area and we don't know how long that's going to be, how long it's going to take the Corps of Engineers to get these projects on line. But the Master Plan sees it critical to build a diversion in this area to help maintain the habitat to prevent it from further eroding and further subsiding and washing away and right now you've got a crevasse in the Mississippi River that broke its way through a natural levee and broke its way to a canal that was there that has changed fisheries, in some cases to the better. But is keeping a marsh in that area healthy and delivering sediment to that marsh need to stay to sustainable.

Commissioner Sunseri asked to comment again on this topic. Just so that the public knows and that this Commission knows that the levee along the Mississippi River is not natural. It's much higher than the natural levee system. The alluvial valley of the Mississippi River dumped tons and tons of sediment when we didn't have levees. That took literally millions of years to develop the landscape in Louisiana. A breakthrough a controlled structure to benefit the public oyster grounds in Southeastern Louisiana is not what we should be wanting to do because this is coming through constantly, which is not normal to an estuary to have that much amount of fresh water. And the other thing is that we have not even close to that sediment in this river that we had back when Cupid's Gap came through in the 1860's, and that did build a deltaic system over its time but it's subsiding and it's going away right in front of our eyes. And to destroy a public history where 80% of the seed and 40% of the market oysters came from historically in the name of trying to save Louisiana's wetlands with this unnatural cut in the river, it's wrong to do and I would hope that we would try to do whatever we can to close it so that it's not abnormally destroying the main public oyster grounds, not only in Louisiana but in the entire United States of America.

Earl Melancon, Jr., an oyster biologist retired from Nicholls State University who now works with the Louisiana Sea Grant, was next to address the Commission. Mr. Melancon said this was his personal opinion in all of this, after having listened to LDWF, to Mr. Lopez and others who have commented and he understands where everyone is coming from. However, he was also a Team Member for the Environmental Defense Fund on looking at just how diversions should be operated and trying to find a balance between land building and preserving our estuaries and developing our fisheries or allowing our fisheries to continue to exist. Part of that publication said we have to try and find a balance. What I'd like to see with the Bohemia Diversion is that it's not balanced. It's not operated with an operational plan. It's just flowing as

Mother Nature allows it to flow, but yet there is a desire through this state, and CPRA and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and others to try to find a balance and a balance requires an operational plan. This Mardi Gras Pass should be closed.

Chairman Courville then announced the next agenda item was **Set time and location for August, 2017 Commission Meeting**. The Commissioners conferred and the time of 1:30 PM was set and the Department's Grand Isle Marine Fisheries Lab was selected as the location. Motion was made by **Commissioner Yakupzack** that the August, 2017 meeting be held on Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 1:30 PM at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Grand Isle Marine Fisheries Lab. **Commissioner Manuel** seconded the motion. **Chairman Courville** called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Courville then announced the next agenda item was **Set November, 2017 Commission Meeting Date**. The Commissioners conferred and the date of November 2, 2017 was selected. Motion was made by **Commissioner Yakupzack** that the November meeting be held on November 2, 2017 at 9:30 AM in the Louisiana Room of the Baton Rouge Headquarters of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. **Commissioner Smitko** seconded the motion. **Chairman Courville** called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Courville then asked to **Receive Public Comments**.

Mr. Doug Daigle with Louisiana Hypoxia Work Group wanted to broach something that he is hoping will be brought up at the next meeting. Mr. Daigle was looking for a statement of support for Louisiana to continue working with other states and agencies to address the Gulf Hypoxia Problem. **Commissioner Smitko** stated that she had read the report when it came out and that it was extremely alarming to her. She asked Mr. Daigle if the cruise is finished, or even if it's not, could he return at the next meeting to provide the Commission with a 3-minute summary of the report. **Chairman Courville** asked Mr. Daigle if we put this on the agenda for the August meeting, could he make a trip down to Grand Isle and be prepared to present some information and perhaps how you see this Commission and this Department having a meaningful impact on that issue. Mr. Daigle replied yes, that he can do that.

There being no further comments, **Chairman Courville** asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by **Commissioner Manuel** and **Chairman Courville Adjourned** the meeting.

APPENDICES

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT
JUNE 2017

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 1 Grand Total Citations: 92

Parishes: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River, Webster

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 63
8	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
13	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
4	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
3	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
4	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
4	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Failure to Comply with Class 1 Payment/Revocation	
8	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
2	Gross Littering	
1	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
1	Improper Running Lights	
7	Littering	
1	No Boat Numbers	
2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Obtain License by Fraud	
1	Operate a vehicle while under suspension (on highway)	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 29
9	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
2	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 1 Grand Total Citations: 92

Parishes: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River, Webster

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 29
1	Fish W/O Resident Pole Lic	
1	Improper Running Lights	
9	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Operate Unregistered Motorboat or Sailboat	

Region: 1	Confiscations
	1- suspected marijuana 1- marijuana grinder 1- rolling papers 1- syringe 1- torch

Region: 1	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
3	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 2 Grand Total Citations: 90

Parishes: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita,
Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 71
4	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
20	Angling W/O A License	
5	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
3	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
6	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
1	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
2	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
1	Failure to Mark/Tag Nets. (freshwater)	
3	Fish W/O Resident Pole Lic	
4	Gross Littering	
4	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
2	Improper Running Lights	
6	Littering	
1	Misrepresentation during issuance of Misdemeanor	
1	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
2	Operate Unregistered Motorboat or Sailboat	
2	Operate Watercraft During License Suspension	
1	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 19
2	Angling W/O A License	
2	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
2	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
1	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 2 Grand Total Citations: 90

**Parishes: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita,
Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll**

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 19
6	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Fish W/O Resident Pole Lic	
1	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
1	Improper Running Lights	
1	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
1	Overpowering of Motorboat.	

Region: 2	Confiscations	
	1- cast net	1- container of marijuana
	15 - black bass	4- bream
	3- crappie	9.9 hp boat motor
	1- spotted fawn	
	4- opossums	

Region: 2	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
3	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 3 Grand Total Citations: 203

Parishes: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine,
Vernon, Winn

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 177
2	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
15	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
29	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
6	Criminal Trespass on State Property	
1	Driving Without Operators License	
6	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
2	Fail to complete trip tickets (fisherman)	
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
8	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
12	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
2	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
3	Fail to comply with Waterskiing regs	
12	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
2	Fail to Maintain Records	
2	Fail to Report Commercial Fishery Data	
1	Failure to comply with No Wake Zone (local)	
13	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
3	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
2	Failure to Mark/Tag Nets. (freshwater)	
6	Gross Littering	
1	Harassment of Person(s) Lawfully Hunting	
7	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
1	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
4	Improper Running Lights	
6	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
4	Littering	
1	Misc.Federal Violations	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 3 Grand Total Citations: 203

Parishes: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine,
Vernon, Winn

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 177
3	No Boat Numbers	
8	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Operate a vehicle while under suspension (on highway)	
1	Operate Unregistered Motorboat or Sailboat	
1	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated	
2	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated	
1	Person Under 16 Operate Personal Watercraft	
1	Poss. of Firearm of Convicted Felon - Certain Felonies	
2	Reckless Operation of Watercraft	
1	Take/Possess Spotted Fawn.	
1	Taking/Poss. Over Limit Or Undersized	
2	Violate Frog Regulations (Specify season / methods)	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 26
1	Angling W/O A License	
2	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
3	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
8	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
2	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
3	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Improper Boat Numbers	
2	Improper Running Lights	
1	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
3	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 3	Confiscations	
	10- smoking Devices for Narcotics 1- marijuana cigarette 2- syringes 1- .22 caliber pistol 2- alligators 1- container of Gopher poison pellets	2- bags of Marijuana 2- baggies of Meth 1- spring loaded knife 3- drivers license 3- Bass 2- Texas license plates

Region: 3	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
6	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 4 Grand Total Citations: 247

Parishes: Iberia, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, West Baton Rouge

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 138
4	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
31	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
5	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
3	Careless Operation	
1	Careless Operation While Water-skiing	
8	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
6	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
3	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
4	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
2	Fail to comply with Waterskiing regs	
8	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
2	Fail to Maintain Records	
1	Failure to comply with No Wake Zone (local)	
10	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
4	Gross Littering	
2	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
4	Improper Running Lights	
1	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
2	Littering	
1	No Boat Numbers	
1	No Boat Numbers	
1	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
4	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Operate Personal Watercraft At Night	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 4 Grand Total Citations: 247

Parishes: Iberia, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, West Baton Rouge

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 138
3	Operate Unregistered Motorboat or Sailboat	
1	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated	
1	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated	
1	Overloading of Motorboat	
3	Sell and/or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood License	
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O CommGear Lic	
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass	
1	Take or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species	
2	Transport W/O Required Lic (Resident or Non-Res.)	
7	Violate Frog Regulations (Specify season / methods)	
1	Violate No Wake Zone (public launch public docking facility)	
1	Violate Rules/Regs-Personal Watercraft-PFD	
1	Violate Sanitation Code (Vessel Sanit Req)	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 109
1	Allow Person Under 16 to Operate Personal Watercraft	
14	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
2	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
2	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
6	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
3	Fail To Have Offshore Landing Permit	
1	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Fail to keep intact (Freshwater)	
2	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	
15	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
7	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 4 Grand Total Citations: 247

Parishes: Iberia, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, West Baton Rouge

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 109
5	Improper Boat Numbers	
14	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
4	Improper or No Sound Producing Device	
2	Improper Running Lights	
5	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
3	No Boat Numbers	
6	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
5	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Overloading of Motorboat .	
3	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
4	Use WMA W/O License or Stamp	
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	

Region: 4	Confiscations
	829lbs. – Blue catfish 2 – bullfrogs 1- Bass 15lbs. – shrimp 228lbs. – crawfish

Region: 4	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
3	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 5 Grand Total Citations: 130

Parishes: Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis,
Vermilion

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 84
1	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
1	Allow Another To Use Recreational Lic.	
20	Angling W/O A License	
10	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
2	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
1	Child Endangerment Law	
1	Collect Rept./Amphib Rec. W/O Basic Fishing Lic	
2	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
3	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
2	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
6	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
2	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
2	Gross Littering	
3	Hunt, Stand, Loiter from Public Road	
3	Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft	
1	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
3	Littering	
4	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
2	Operate Unregistered Motorboat or Sailboat	
1	Operate Watercraft During License Suspension	
1	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated	
1	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated	
1	Possess or sell undersized crabs (10% to 19%)	
1	Take or Poss. O/L Black Drum (Rec.)	
1	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
3	Take/Poss. Undersized Spotted Sea Trout (Rec.)	
4	Taking or Possessing Alligators Closed Season	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 5 Grand Total Citations: 130

**Parishes: Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis,
Vermilion**

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 84
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 46
5	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
2	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
4	Fail To Have Offshore Landing Permit	
7	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Proper Number on Vessel	
1	Fish W/O Resident Pole Lic	
4	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
3	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
1	Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum	
1	Taking/Posses immature female crabs as per 76 PartVII:346	
13	Use WMA W/O License or Stamp	

Region: 5	Confiscations
	10.5 lbs – frog legs

Region: 5	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
6	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 6 Grand Total Citations: 294

Parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Jefferson
(Grand Isle) 2nd

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 143
2	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
22	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
1	Allow Unlic. Fisherman to use Vessel LicOr vessel	
1	Altered Certificate of Number	
7	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
2	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
2	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
2	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
1	Buy Commercial Fish From Un-Lic. Fisherman	
1	Careless Operation	
1	Careless Operation	
1	Driving Without Operators License	
6	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
3	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
1	Fail to comply with stone crab requirements	
1	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
2	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail To Have Commercial Lic. in Poss	
1	Fail To Have Intact (Saltwater)	
5	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Fail to Maintain Records	
1	Fail to Report Commercial Fishery Data	
1	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	
6	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 6 Grand Total Citations: 294

**Parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Jefferson
(Grand Isle) 2nd**

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 143
4	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
2	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
1	Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road	
1	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
2	Improper Running Lights	
1	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
1	Intentional concealment, destruction or deposit fish or wildlife	
1	Intentionally destroy, conceal, dispose of	
5	Littering	
4	No Boat Numbers	
3	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
9	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Obtain License by Fraud	
1	Operate ATV Vehicle on Public Road	
1	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated	
1	Poss. of O/B or Motorboat W/Serial No. Removed/Altered	
1	Possess over 10 Red Drum (on water)	
1	Reckless Operation of a Vehicle	
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O CommGear Lic	
1	Take or Poss. O/L Black Drum (Rec.)	
2	Take or poss. O/L of Red Drum (On Water)	
2	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
4	Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum	
1	Take or PossCommercial Fish W/O Vessel Lic	
2	Take or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species	
1	Take/Poss. Undersized Spotted Sea Trout (Rec.)	
2	Taking or Possessing Alligators Closed Season	
1	Tending crab traps illegal hours	
2	Theft of crab trap(s)	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 6 Grand Total Citations: 294

Parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Jefferson
(Grand Isle) 2nd

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 143
1	Use crab traps without required markings	
1	Violate Frog Regulations (Specify season / methods)	
3	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	
1	Violate Sanitation Code (specify general)	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 151
1	Allow Person Under 16 to Operate Personal Watercraft	
21	Angling W/O A License	
9	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
5	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
10	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
2	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
5	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
10	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
11	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail to comply with Waterskiing regs	
15	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
9	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Proper Number on Vessel	
7	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
10	Improper Boat Numbers	
2	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
2	Improper Running Lights	
2	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
3	No Boat Numbers	
7	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
8	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Person Under 16 Operate Personal Watercraft	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 6 Grand Total Citations: 294

**Parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Jefferson
(Grand Isle) 2nd**

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 151
2	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
2	Taking/Posses immature female crabs as per 76 PartVII:346	
1	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear Lic Non-Resident	
2	Violate No Wake Zone (public launch public docking facility)	
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	
1	Violate Turtle Excluder Device Regulations - State	

Region: 6	Confiscations			
	1-shark	23-sks oysters	37-lbs shrimp	14-Perch
	18-Stone crabs	7-Black drum	6-lbs crabs	14-pkg frog legs
	3-Red drum	1-Crab trap	3-pks alligator meat	
	1-license plate	15-cans beer	1-pkg Red drum filets	
	1-vessel	1-bottle vodka	1-oyster harvester log book	
	1-digital scale	1-switch blade knife	Various drug Paraphernalia	
	Various forms of green vegetation, prescription Drugs			

Region: 6	Total Number For Public Assistance	
Total	Description	
4		

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 7 Grand Total Citations: 113

Parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa,
Washington, West Feliciana

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 109
17	Angling W/O A License	
3	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Collect Rept./Amphib Rec. W/O Basic Fishing Lic	
1	Criminal Trespass	
1	Discharge Firearm From Public Road	
3	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
10	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
5	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
1	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
3	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
2	Fail to comply with Waterskiing regs	
6	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	
9	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
7	Gross Littering	
1	Hunt Raccoons or Opossums Illegally	
1	Hunt, Stand, Loiter from Public Road	
1	Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft	
1	Improper Boat Numbers	
2	Improper Running Lights	
4	Improper Running Lights	
2	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
1	Littering	
3	Littering	
2	No Boat Numbers	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 7 Grand Total Citations: 113

**Parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa,
Washington, West Feliciana**

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 109
2	No Boat Numbers	
1	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
1	Operate Watercraft During License Suspension	
3	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated	
6	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated	
1	Possession of Live Alligators W/O Permit	
1	Reckless Operation of Watercraft	
3	Violate No Wake Zone (public launch public docking facility)	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 4
3	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	

Region: 7	Confiscations
	2-small containers of Marijuana Drug paraphenalia- 2-pipes 1-metal grinder rolling papers

Region: 7	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
12	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 8 Grand Total Citations: 219

Parishes: Jefferson (E1,W2,24), Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, St. Tammany

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 95
2	Angling W/O A License	
10	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
2	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
1	Careless Operation	
2	Commission Rules and Regs. Red Snapper	
4	Commission Rules and Regs. Red Snapper	
5	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
4	Fail to complete trip tickets (fisherman)	
4	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
2	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail To Have Commercial Lic. in Poss	
1	Fail To Have Commercial Lic. in Poss	
5	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Fail to Maintain Records	
1	Fail to Report Commercial Fishery Data	
9	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Proper Number on Vessel	
1	Gross Littering	
1	Illegal Poss. of Alligators, Eggs, or Their Skins	
2	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
6	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
3	Operate Watercraft During License Suspension	
1	Possession of Live Alligators W/O Permit	
1	Take Alligators W/O License	
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O CommGear Lic	
3	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)	
6	Taking or Possessing Alligators Closed Season	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 8 Grand Total Citations: 219

Parishes: Jefferson (E1,W2,24), Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, St. Tammany

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 95
1	Theft of crab trap(s)	
3	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms	
1	Violate Migr.Bird Treaty Act misc.	
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	
4	Violate Sanitation Code (log book)	
2	Violate Sanitation Code (Refrigeration)	
1	Violate Sanitation Code (specify general)	
1	Violate Sanitation Code (specify general)	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 124
25	Angling W/O A License	
25	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Driving on Levees	
3	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
3	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
4	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
2	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
22	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
2	Failure to Display Proper Number on Vessel	
2	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
2	Improper Boat Numbers	
18	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
1	Improper or No Flame Arrestor	
1	Improper Running Lights	
2	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
2	No Boat Numbers	
2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 8 Grand Total Citations: 219

Parishes: Jefferson (E1,W2,24), Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, St. Tammany

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 124
1	Take or Poss. O/L Black Drum (Rec.)	
2	Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum	
1	Take/Poss. Undersized Spotted Sea Trout (Rec.)	
1	Violate Sanitation Code (specify general)	

Region: 8	Confiscations	
	162- oyster sacks	100 lbs-Blue crabs
	7- Black drum	4-Red drum
	2-alligators	168-frogs
	1-Mallard duck	45-Spotted Sea trout

Region: 8	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
3	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Enforcement Case Report**

Written Citations:	880	
Written Warnings:	508	
Public Assistance:	<table border="1"><tr><td>40</td></tr></table>	40
40		

MONTHLY BOATING CRASH / INCIDENT REPORT

June 2017

JUNE / YEAR TO DATE

<u>NUMBER OF BOATING INCIDENTS</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>67</u>
<u>NUMBER OF INJURIES</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>NUMBER OF FATALITIES</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>

6/3/17 Vernon

V1 (1 occupant / PWC) and V2 (1 occupant / PWC) were being operated on Vernon Lake. V1 collided with V2 causing injuries to the V2 operator whom was transported for further medical attention (lacerations to leg). Alcohol was involved and PFD's were used.

6/7/17 St. Mary

Vessel (1 occupant / 13' Tiller steer) was being operated on the Charenton Drainage Canal. While on plane, the operator removed the plug to drain water and collided with a fixed object (tree). The operator was transported for further medical attention. A PFD was not used.

6/8/17 St. Martin

Vessel (2 occupants / Remote steer) was being operated on the Texaco Pipeline Canal when it struck a submerged object (underwater piling) causing the hull to puncture. PFD's were not used.

6/9/17 Cameron

Vessel (2 occupants / 16' Tiller steer) was being operated on the Lacassine Pool NWR. While operating under the West Cross Levee Bridge, the passenger struck his head causing a serious injury and was transported for further medical attention. Alcohol was involved and PFD's were not used.

6/9/17 Jefferson

Vessel (1 occupant / Remote steer) was being operated in Grand Isle near the Sand Dollar Marina. While leaving the dock, V1 collided with V2 which was moored and unoccupied. Alcohol was involved and a PFD was not used.

6/9/17 Jefferson

Vessel (2 occupants / Remote steer) was being operated on Westwego Canal when the motor became inoperable. While attempting to re-start, a fire/explosion occurred forcing both occupants to enter the water. A fire engine was able to extinguish and PFD's were not used.

6/14/17 Rapides

V1 (2 occupants / Tiller steer) was being operated on Kincaid Lake when it struck a submerged object (stump). The vessel began to take on water causing it to capsize. PFD's were used.

6/16/17 Cameron

V1 (4 occupants / 24' Remote steer) and V2 (2 occupants / 22' Remote steer) were being operated in opposite directions on Greens Bayou. While in a curve, vessels collided causing damage and an injury (fractured rib). The injured was transported for further medical attention. PFD's were used by V1.

6/17/17 Livingston

V1 (2 occupants / 17' Remote steer) was being operated downstream on Diversion Canal. The operator lost control and struck a pier causing damage and serious injuries to both occupants whom were transported for further medical attention. Alcohol was involved and PFD's were not used.

6/18/17 Orleans

V1 (3 occupants / 17' Remote steer) was being operated on Lake Pontchartrain. While in a severe storm, V1 could not negotiate large waves which caused it to capsize. PFD's were used.

6/24/17 Orleans

Vessel (2 occupants / 21' Remote steer) was being operated on a canal at the Island Marina in Lake Catherine. The operator slipped and lost control causing the vessel to accelerate and collide with a moored, unoccupied vessel. The moored vessel sustained moderate damage. PFD's were not used.

6/25/17 Tangipahoa

V1 (2 occupants / 11.5' PWC) and V2 (2 occupants / 11.5' PWC) were being operated in the same direction on South Pass. V2 collided with V1's stern causing an injury. The injured was transported for further medical attention (severe leg laceration). PFD's were used.

6/30/17 Vermilion

V1 (2 occupants / 57' Remote steer) was being operated on the Intracoastal Waterway as V2 (2 occupants / 14' Tiller steer) was moored to cypress trees near the shoreline. V1's wake caused a V2 occupant to fall overboard and sustain an injury (neck & back pain). PFD's were not used.

*Denotes Fatality

2016 Incidents to date

Crash / Incidents	66
Injuries	47
Fatalities	10

2017 Incidents to date

Crash / Incidents	67
Injuries	35
Fatalities	10

NOTICE: This report only represents incidents reported to and investigated by the Enforcement Division. Some or all of these incidents are still under investigation and cause or fault may or may not have been determined. Information provided is for informational purposes only. For more information contact Lt. Colonel Sammy Martin smartin@wlf.la.gov or 225/765-2536.

Two Buras Men Cited for Gillnet Violations

Release Date: 06/12/2017

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) enforcement agents cited two Buras men for alleged gillnet violations in Plaquemines Parish on June 10.

Agents cited Jason Wilkerson, 27, and Freddy J. Creppel, 45, for illegal use/possession of a gillnet in a saltwater area and resisting an officer.

While on a boat patrol in the Empire area agents observed the two men actively fishing a gillnet in the marsh. Agents attempted to stop the subjects, however they ignored agent's orders to stop and fled the area.

During the investigation, agents were able to identify the men in the vessel and the following day made contact with both men at their residences. When confronted with the evidence both subjects admitted to their crimes and were charged. Agents seized the illegal gillnet used in connection with the violation.

Use/possess gillnet in a saltwater area brings a \$900 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Resisting an officer carries up to a \$500 fine and six months in jail.

Agents involved in the case are Senior Agent Travis Bartlett and Agent Tom Forehand.

1-800-256-2749 | (225) 765-2800 | Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O.
Box 98000
2000 Quail Dr. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

A Man and Two Boys Rescued from Sinking Shrimp Vessel in Vermilion Bay

Release Date: 06/27/2017



A Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agent rescued three people from a sinking vessel in Vermilion Bay this morning, June 27.

Agents were alerted around 5:30 a.m. about a sinking shrimp vessel in Vermilion Bay with three people on board. LDWF Sgt. Mitch Darby responded by boat to the scene and was able to rescue a 55 year old New Iberia man, 14 year old boy and 11 year old boy.

Sgt. Darby then transported the rescued people to a boat launch where family members were waiting. The 55 year old and 14 year old sustained minor injuries in the incident.

According to the rescued 55 year old, they were in route to go shrimping on a 20 foot vessel when they struck a submerged object causing their vessel to begin sinking. The man said they were just about to enter the water with personal flotation devices when Sgt. Darby showed up with the rescue vessel.

1-800-256-2749 | (225) 765-2800 | Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O.
Box 98000
2000 Quail Dr. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

Bayou Dularge Man Arrested on Drug Charges

Release Date: 06/28/2017

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries arrested a Bayou Dularge man for alleged drug and commercial fishing violations on June 27 in Terrebonne Parish.

Agents arrested Anouda Lirette, 39, for using oversized skimmer nets, possession of marijuana, possession of meth, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a firearm while in possession of a controlled dangerous substance, and possession of nongame birds.

Agents were in state offshore waters on a Joint Enforcement Agreement patrol when they made contact with Lirette who was on board a 42 foot shrimp boat. Agents found the skimmer nets were oversized and noticed some dead seagulls on the deck of his vessel.

Upon further investigation agents found a .22 cal rifle, marijuana, crystal meth, and drug paraphernalia on board. Agents booked Lirette into the Terrebonne Parish correctional facility.

Agents seized 784 pounds of shrimp, six seagulls, a .22 cal rifle, drug paraphernalia, marijuana and crystal meth.

Possession of methamphetamine carries up to a \$5,000 fine and five years in jail. Possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia each brings up to a \$500 fine and six months in jail. Possession of a firearm while in possession of illegal drugs carries up to a \$10,000 fine and five to 10 years of prison.

Using oversized skimmer nets brings a \$250 to \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Possession of nongame birds carries a \$400 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail.

Agents participating in the case are Agent Gerald Sander, Senior Agent Scott Dupre, Agent Mike Williams and Agent Richie Bean.

1-800-256-2749 | (225) 765-2800 | Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O.
Box 98000
2000 Quail Dr. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898



Louisiana Master Plan Projects Fisheries & Wildlife Resources Modelling and Estimation

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting
Baton Rouge, LA
July 6, 2017

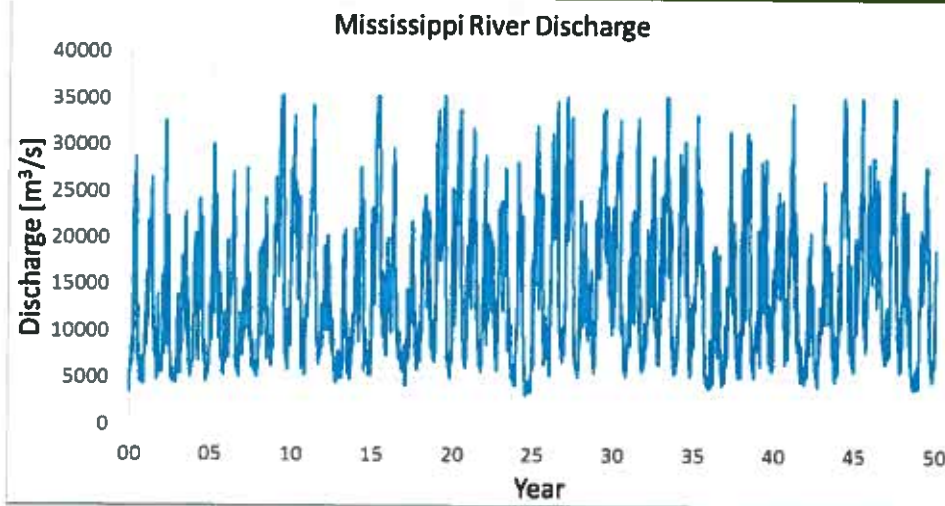
Master Plan

- Summarized by CPRA in June meeting
 - 200+ projects, \$50 Billion+ cost
- CPRA Purpose – Protect, Conserve, Restore
- MP - Large-scale modelling
 - Integrated Compartment Modelling
 - Hydrological / Hydrographic
 - Vegetation
 - Habitat Suitability
 - Linked to Mississippi River hydrograph, relative sea level rise, etc.



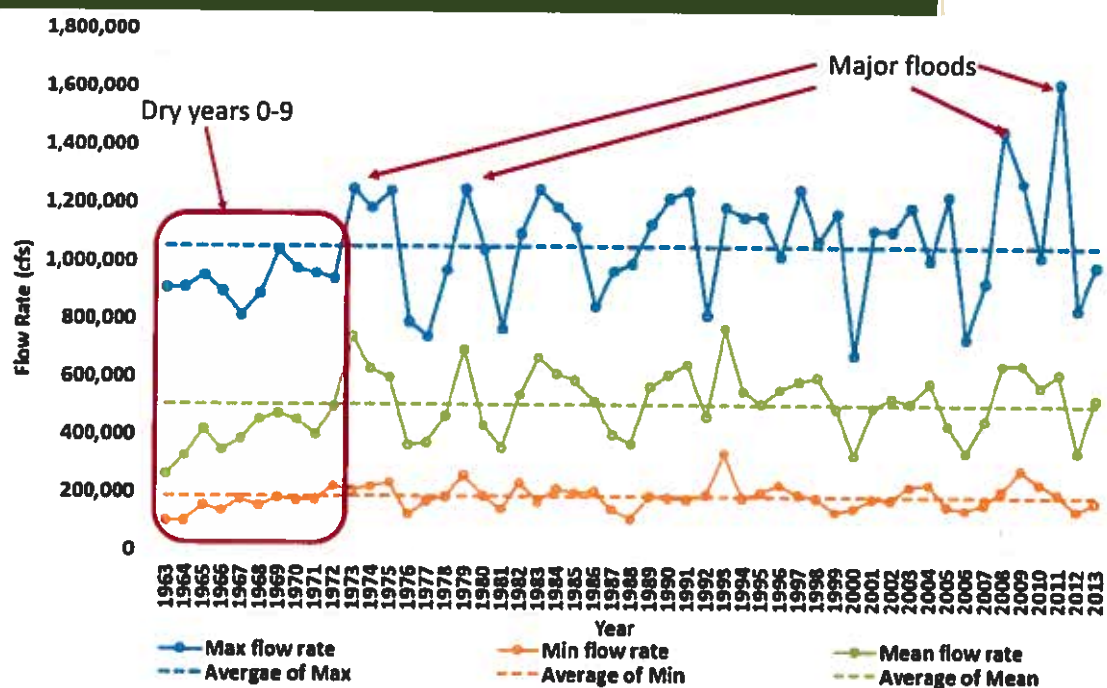
Master Plan

- River Hydrograph tied to historic hydrograph
 - Benefit – it really happened that way
 - Challenge – it won't happen exactly that way again
- Some important parameters hidden in this version



Simplified Outline of Hydrograph

When something occurs is important due to land loss



Biological Model Inputs

- Relative sea level rise, etc.
- Hydrological / Hydrographic
- Vegetation
- Marsh:water coverage
 - Decadal changes in model base
 - Makes difference in model outputs
 - Unrealistic decadal shifts
 - Perhaps more realistic trends
- BUT – based on that hydrograph, etc.



Process

- Master Plan – high level planning document
 - Used to prioritize efforts
 - Goals: Protect / Build / Sustain
 - ~\$50 BILLION in potential projects
 - Not that much available
- Feasibility / Permitting [COST/BENEFIT]
 - Project Selection from Prioritization
 - Requires more detailed description of project, outcomes
 - Additional modelling, assessment done
- Operations [IMPACTS]
 - What really happens on the ground
 - What really affects fish and wildlife resources
 - Probably different than what is in MP



Master Plan Models

- Use 50-year hydrograph, estimates of relative sea-level rise, etc.
- Massive models – but also large scale
- Project-level models in Engineering and Design are more detailed, smaller scale
 - Still do not have some details
 - e.g. - cold front passage
- Years in MP model have all characteristics of those years
 - Year 40 has the hydrograph for that year, but also has applied the estimated land loss and sea level rise that is estimated to have occurred
 - Very different result if that same river hydrograph occurs in year 2.



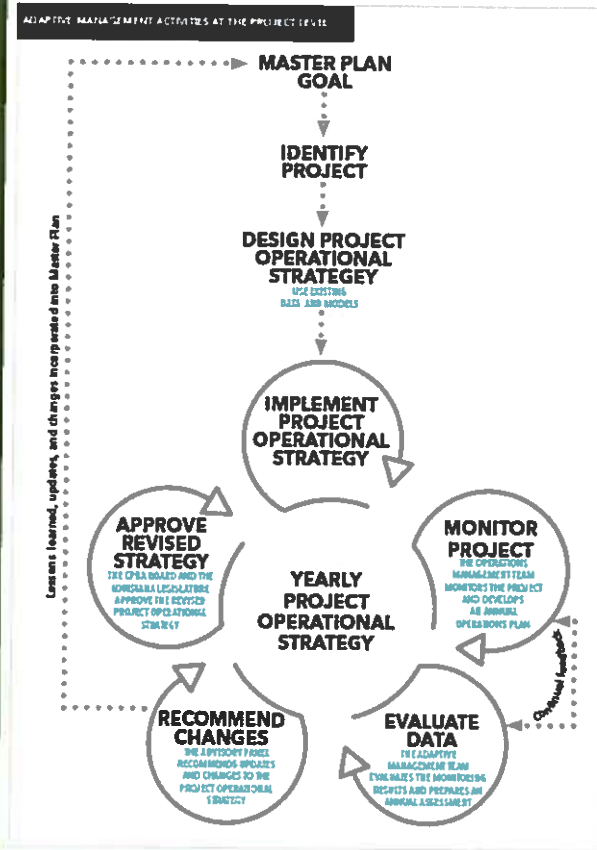
Master Plan Models

- HSI – Habitat Suitability Indices
 - monthly hydrological data
 - annual vegetation input data
 - output annual
- EwE - Ecosim with Ecopath
 - monthly hydrological
 - Oyster daily hydro
 - annual vegetation input data
 - Biomass, growth, movement
 - Decadal landscape change
 - output monthly



Developing Operations Plan

- Iterative



List of Plans

- Atchafalaya River Diversion
 - Project ID: 03a.DI.05 - 30,000 cfs capacity
- Atchafalaya Flow to Terrebonne - Sediment Diversion
 - Project ID: 03b.DI.04 - 20,000 cfs capacity
- Central Wetlands (Violet) Sediment Diversion
 - Project ID: 001.DI.18 - 5,000 cfs constant flow
- Mid-Breton Sound Sediment Diversion
 - Project ID: 001.DI.104 – 35,000 cfs @ 1 M cfs MR
- Lower Breton Sediment Diversion
 - Project ID: 001.DI.02 - 50,000 cfs @ 1 M cfs MR
- Ama Sediment Diversion (upper Barataria basin)
 - Project ID: 001.DI.101 - 50,000 cfs capacity
- Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
 - Project ID: 002.DI.102 - 75,000 cfs @ 1 M cfs MR



Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

75,000 cfs @ 1 M cfs MR

Mid-Breton Sound Sediment Diversion

35,000 cfs @ 1 M cfs MR

- 2015 Decision – move to preliminary engineering and design
- Over the next several years, CPRA will work to
 - optimize operations,
 - formulate the final project design
 - apply for appropriate construction permits
- EIS process began 2016 (2018 for Mid-Breton)
- 3-5 year construction beginning 2020 (2022 for Mid-Breton)
- Planning efforts will continue to evaluate additional diversions

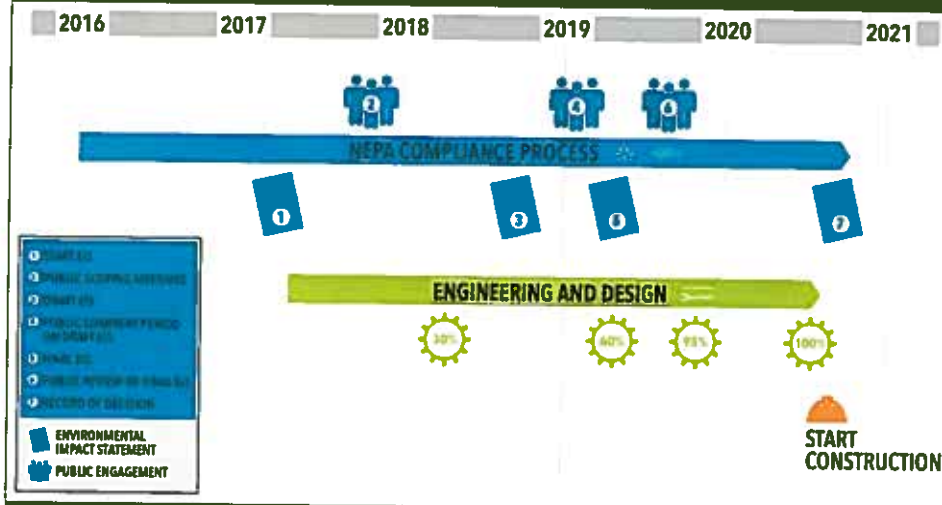


Planning Continues

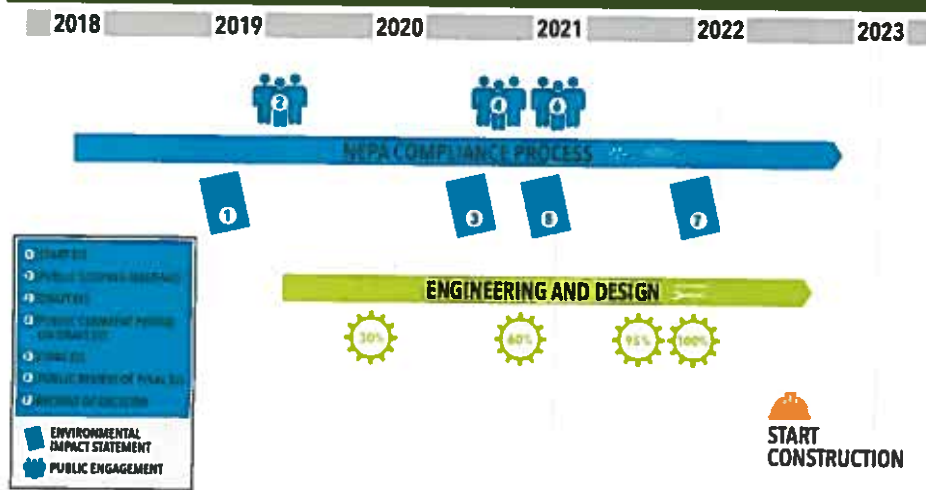
- Atchafalaya River Diversion
 - Project ID: 03a.DI.05 - 30,000 cfs capacity
- Atchafalaya Flow to Terrebonne - Sediment Diversion
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 - Project ID: 001.DI.02 - 50,000 cfs @ 1 M cfs MR
- Ama Sediment Diversion (upper Barataria basin)
 - Project ID: 001.DI.101 - 50,000 cfs capacity



Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion 75,000 cfs @ 1 M cfs MR



Mid-Breton Sound Sediment Diversion 35,000 cfs @ 1 M cfs MR



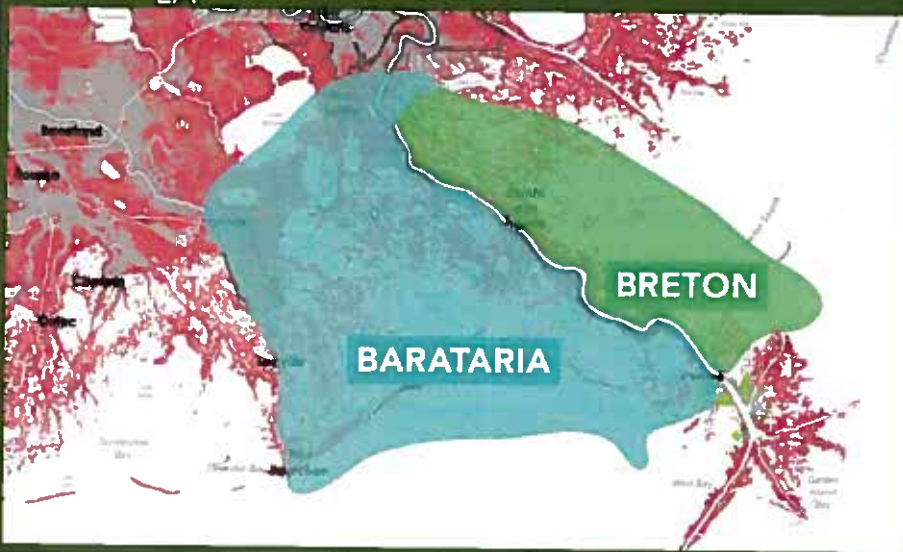
Species-specific Models

- 3 Major types of models
 - EWE – Ecopath / Ecosim
 - CASM - Comprehensive Aquatic System Model
 - HSI – Habitat Suitability Indices
- Some of the primary inputs to models from LDWF Fishery-Independent long-term fishery sampling programs
 - Note: these sampling programs were not intended for these purposes, but are some of the best long-term data available for this purpose.
- Also use data and results from a wide range of studies within Louisiana as well as elsewhere



Species-specific Models

- HSI – Master Plan
- EwE / CASM – Delta Management Plan
 - CASM Not available for Central / Western LA



Species-specific HSI Models For Fish

Brown shrimp	Spotted seatrout
Juvenile	Juvenile
"Adult"	Adult
White shrimp	Red drum
Juvenile	Juvenile
"Adult"	Adult
Blue crab	Eastern oyster
Juvenile	Spat
Adult	Sack
Gulf menhaden	Largemouth bass
Juvenile	Adult
Adult	
Bay anchovy	



Other Fish Species with HSI Models

Atlantic croaker	Silversides
Bay anchovy	Snappers
Black drum	Southern flounder
Blue catfish	Spot
Caridean shrimp	Striped mullet
Gizzard shad	Sunfishes
Killifishes	Threadfin shad
Mud crabs	
Pinfish	
Sand seatrout	
Sea catfish	
Sharks	
Sheepshead	
Silver perch	



Species-specific HSI Models - Wildlife

Alligator
Brown Pelican
Gadwall
Greenwinged Teal
Mottled Duck



HSI

- Species – habitat relationships
 - Can include (depending on species)
 - Salinity
 - Temperature
 - Substrate (e.g. % cultch, %sand)
 - Turbidity
 - Marsh / Marsh edge (% marsh)
 - Vegetation type
 - Etc.
- Coupled with Integrated Compartment Model (ICM)



EwE

- Widely used model structure, worldwide
- Spatially explicit – fine scale – includes population and fishery dynamics as well as ecosystem functions
 - Production / growth
 - Mortality
 - Species interactions
- Complex
- Incorporated into Integrated Compartment Model (ICM)



Models Useful, Not Perfect

- May have issues with underlying assumptions
 - Future rainfall, river hydrology, relative sea level rise, underlying hydro (etc.)
 - model precision and accuracy
 - the processes influencing biological production of a species or system in the models are generalized and not comprehensive



Example Fishery Models

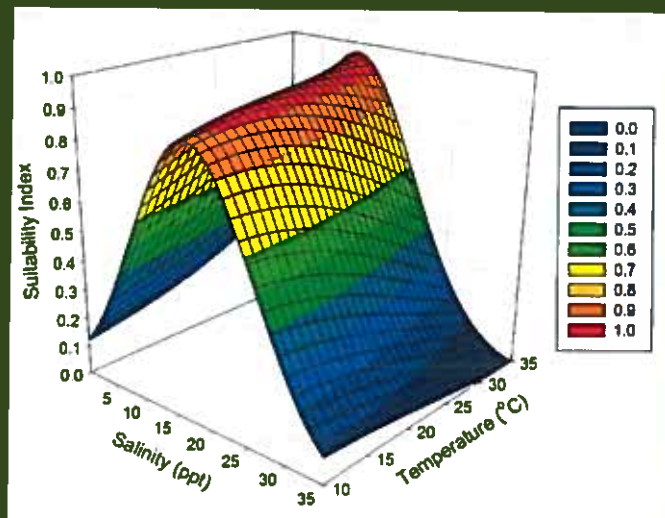
Brown Shrimp

- HSI
- EwE



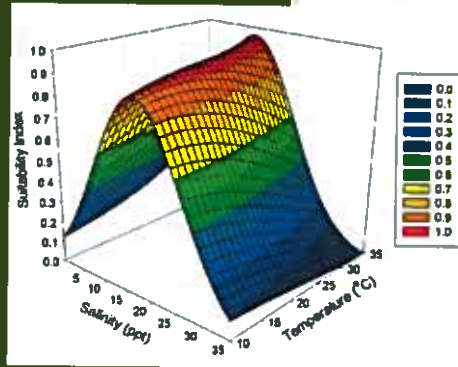
Brown Shrimp HSI

- Driven by Salinity, Temperature, Wetland Coverage
- Graphic of suitability of salinity and temperature for small brown shrimp

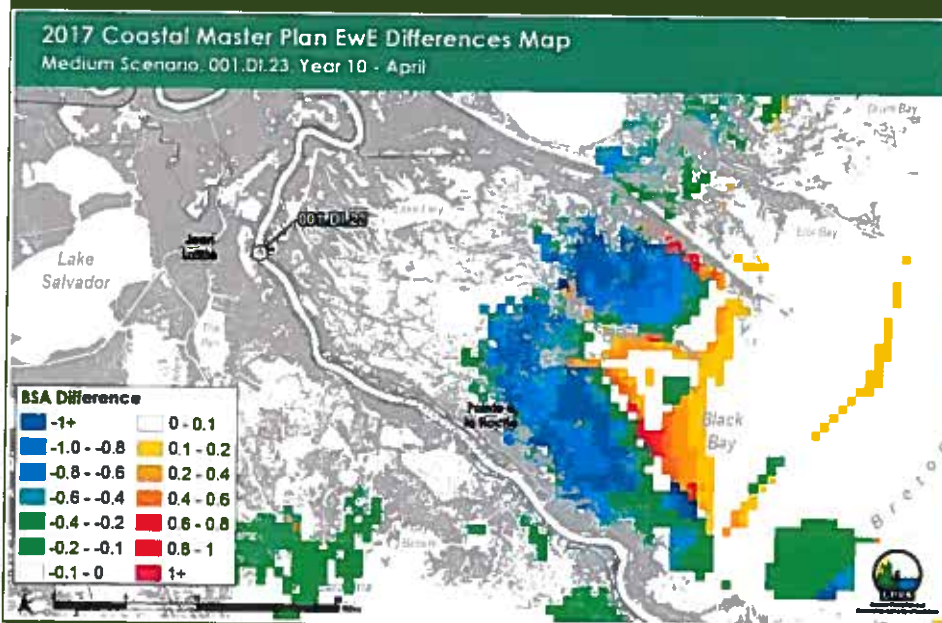


Small Brown Shrimp HSI

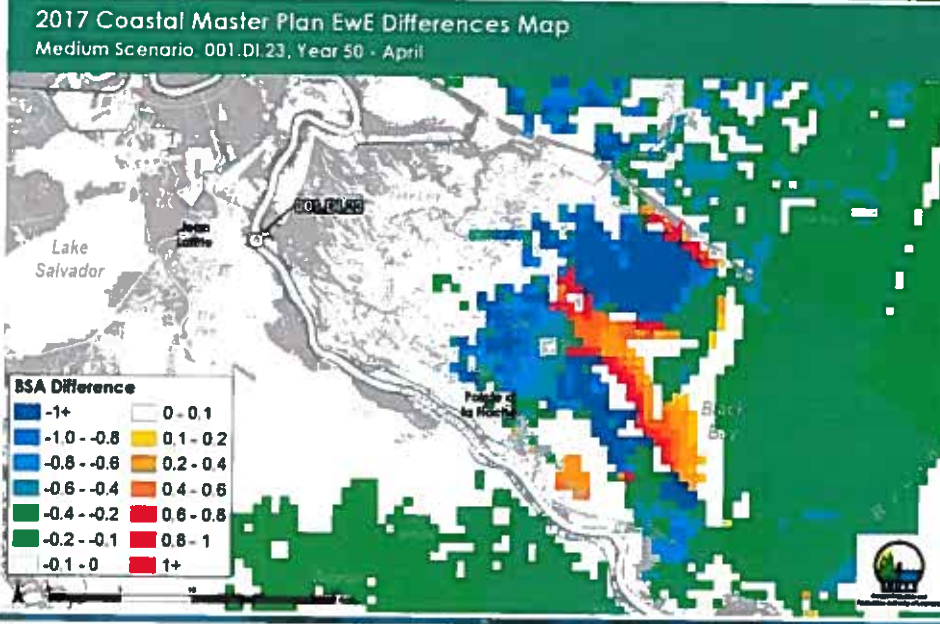
- Suitability higher in moderate (15-20 ppt) salinity, lower at high salinity
- Due to sizes in life history stage
- Different stages have different shaped response surfaces
- These are based on Fishery-Independent seine samples – so observed abundance
 - Not necessarily optimum growth
 - Where they actually occur
 - Gear-dependent
 - Size-dependent
 - Seasonality



Adult Brown Shrimp DIFFERENCE Mid Breton Y 10 - Medium Scenario



Adult Brown Shrimp DIFFERENCE Mid Breton Y 50 - Medium Scenario



Master Plan Salinity Models Mid-Breton

- 10, 30, 50 years
- Low, Mid, High Scenarios



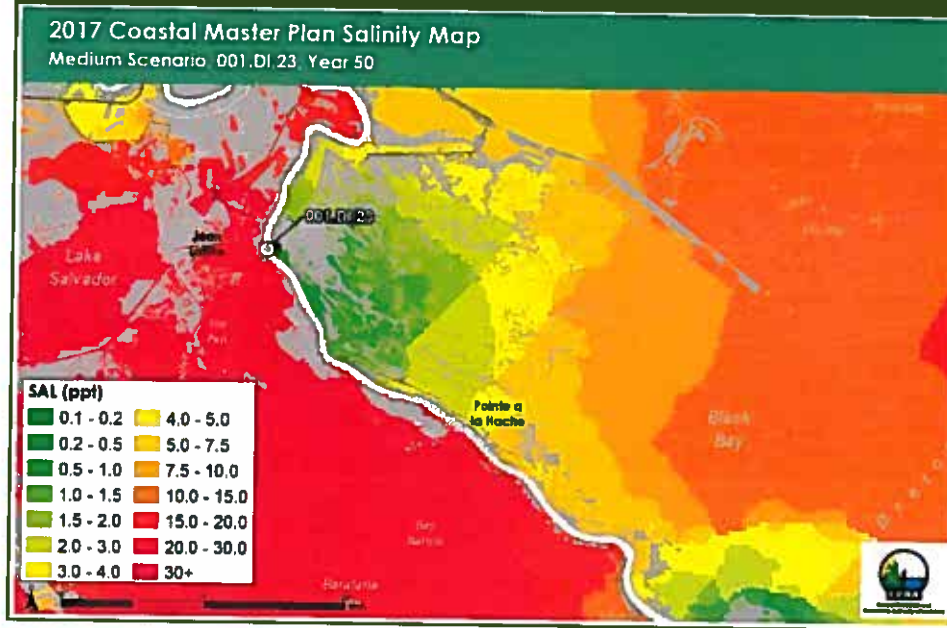
MP Salinity Map
Mid Breton Y 10 - Medium Scenario



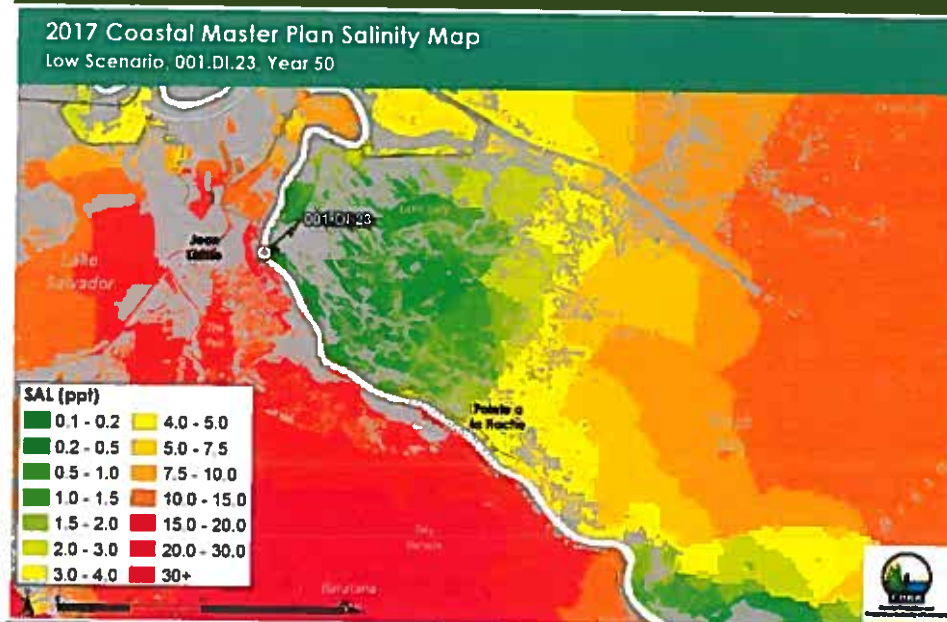
MP Salinity Map
Mid Breton Y 30 - Medium Scenario



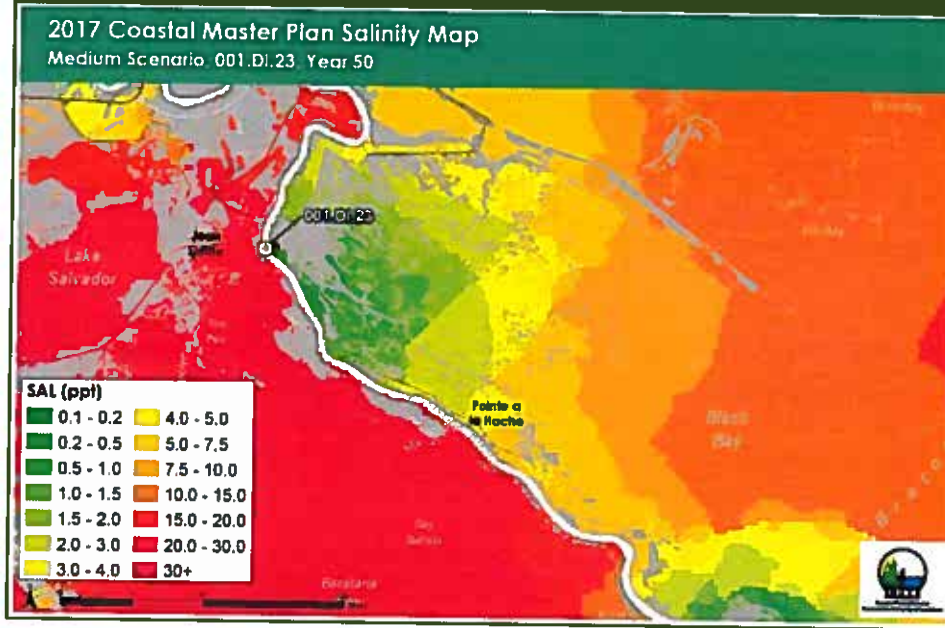
MP Salinity Map Mid Breton Y 50 - Medium Scenario



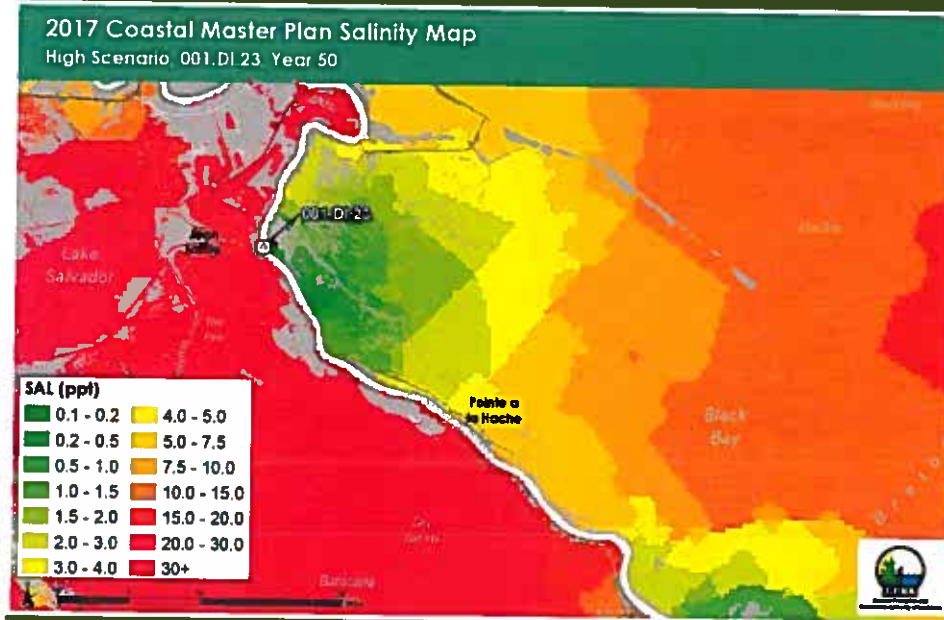
MP Salinity Map Mid Breton Y 50 - Low Scenario



MP Salinity Map Mid Breton Y 50 - Medium Scenario



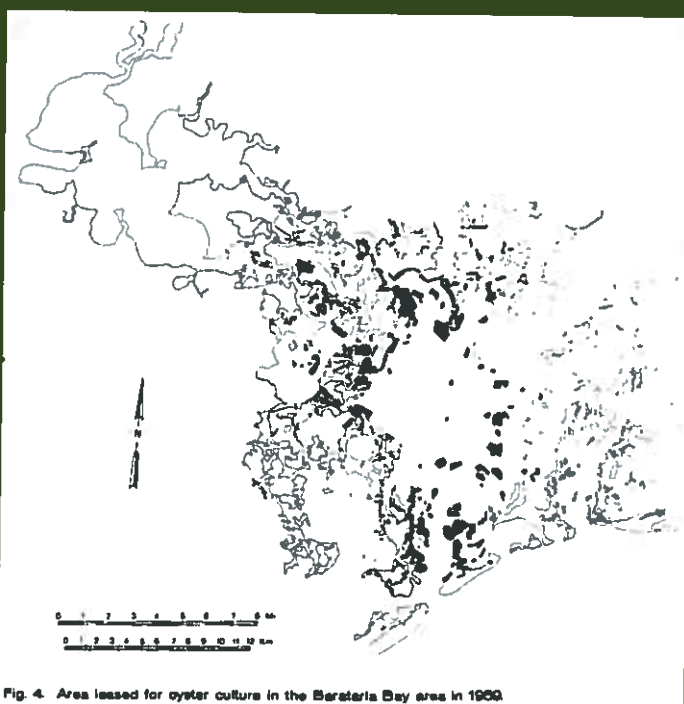
MP Salinity Map Mid Breton Y 50 - High Scenario



Historic Oyster Lease Changes Barataria System - 1947



Historic Oyster Lease Changes Barataria System - 1959



Historic Oyster Lease Changes Barataria System - 1975

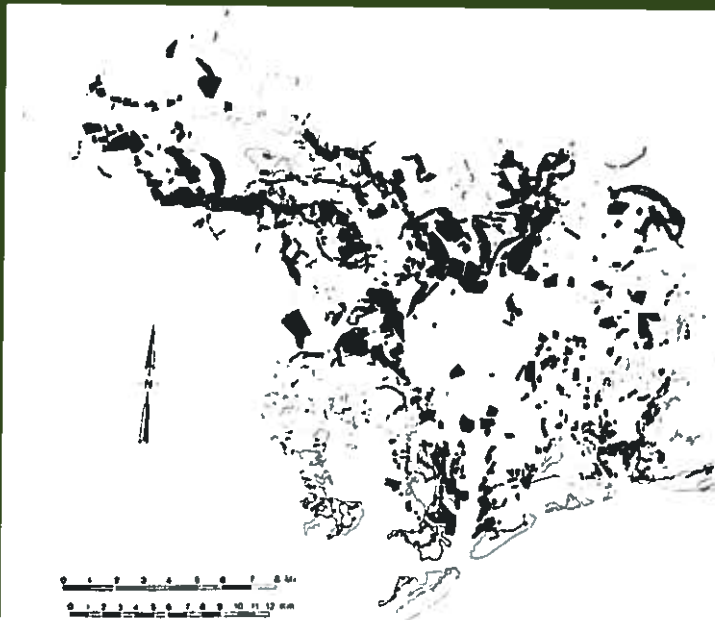
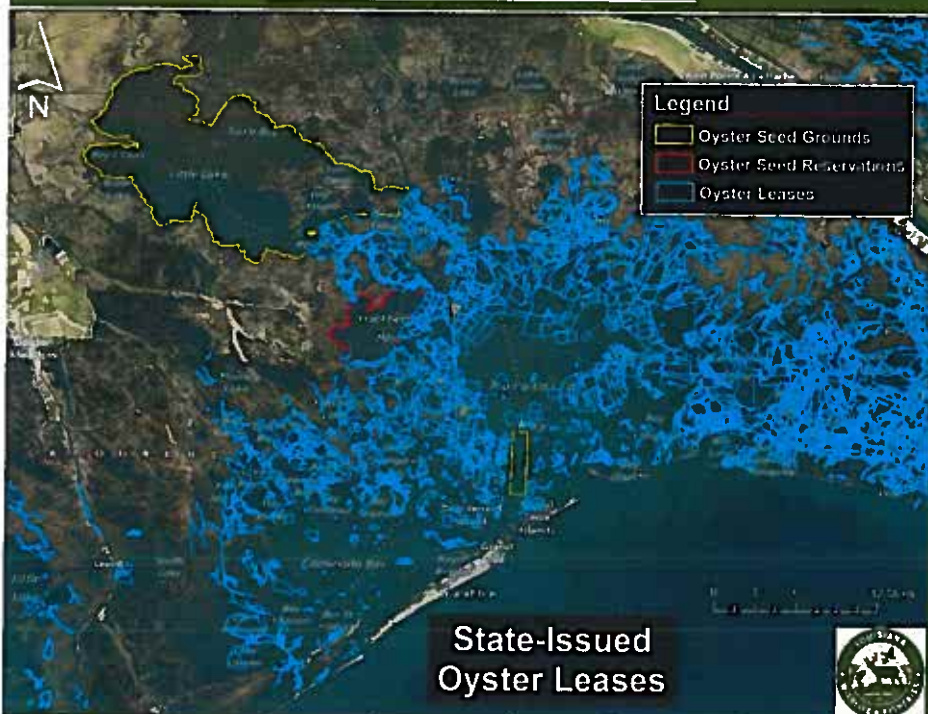


Fig. 5. Area leased for oyster culture in the Barataria Bay area in 1975.



Historic Oyster Lease Changes Barataria System - 2012



Predictions

- The coast of Louisiana will change, with or without Master Plan projects
- Predictions about those changes cannot be perfect – but can be useful
- Project-specific analyses will be more detailed, but will not be available until EIS is complete for that project
- Actual impacts will depend on Annual Operations Plan



Predictions

- Many proposed projects have overlapping areas of influence, so there may be multiple influences on an area – not just one project
- Current biological models of Master Plan projects are much better than they have been – but can still be improved
- They will never be perfect!!!
- Tremendous amount of information available
- LDWF working with CPRA to provide guidance for fishery resource evaluations



PLEASE HOLD QUESTIONS



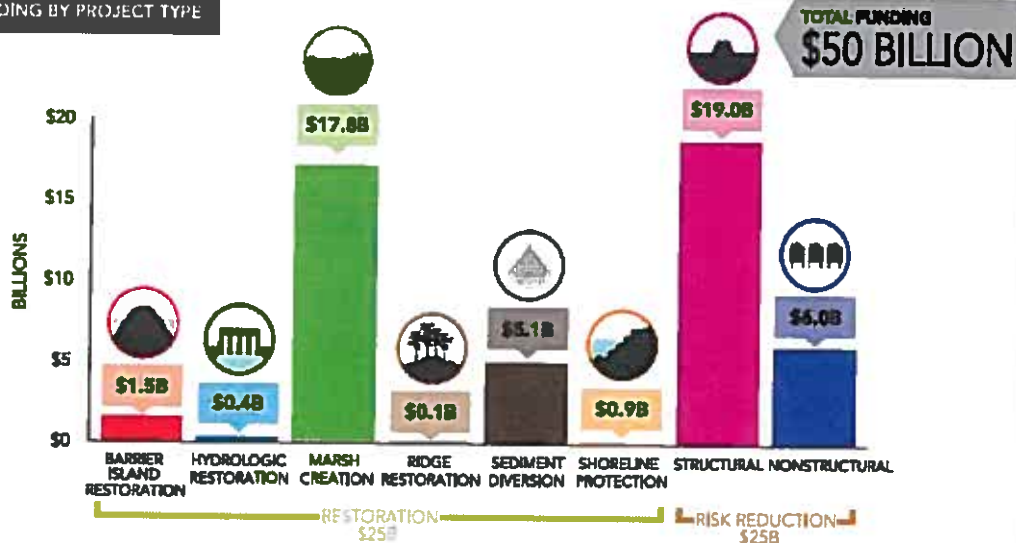


Coastal Master Plan Impacts to Wildlife

Todd Baker July 6, 2017

2017 Master Plan

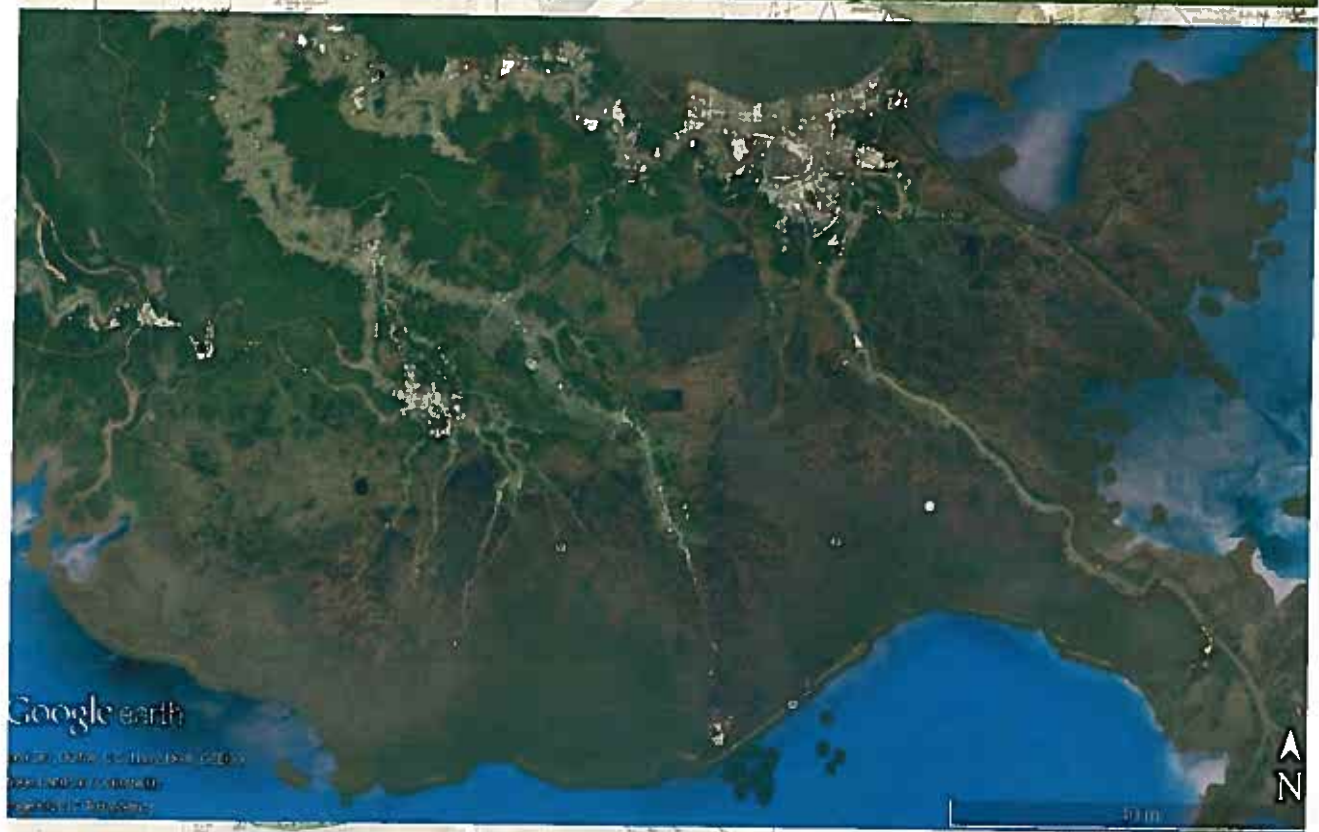
FUNDING BY PROJECT TYPE



\$50 Billion Dollar Plan

- 50% Coastal restoration
 - 10.3% of the plan is invested in sediment diversions
 - 35.6% of plan is invested in marsh creation
- 50% Community Risk Reduction
 - Levees
 - Elevating Structures

1855 vs 2016



How will the Master Plan effect Wildlife? Specifically Sediment Diversions?

There are two ways to look it:

Modeling:

CPRA Habitat Suitability Indices (HSI)

Real world examples:

Freshwater Diversions

Existing Sediment Diversions

Crevasses



Bottom Line: We don't truly know.

Modeling: Habitat Suitability Indices (HSI)

HSI Models for the Master Plan included the following wildlife species:

- American Alligator
- Brown Pelican
- Mottled Duck
- Gadwall
- Green-winged Teal

Optimal HSI for Green-winged teal:

- Fresh Marsh
- Percent Open water: 35% - 75%
- Water Depth between Sept. and March: 6 - 18cm

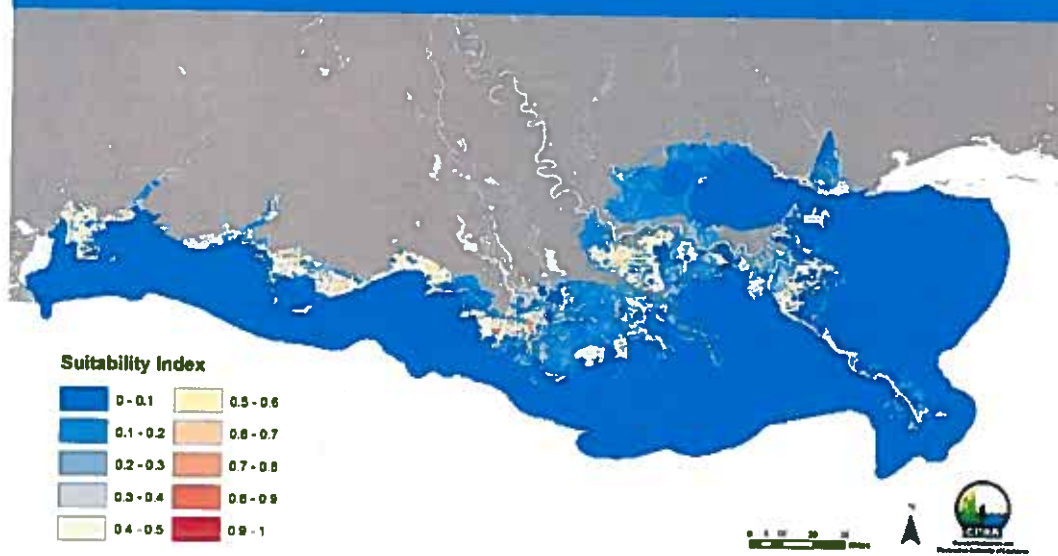
Optimal HSI for American Alligator:

- % Open Water: 20% - 40%
- Water Elevation – 15cm
- Habitat Type: Intermediate
- Marsh Edge Interspersion: 22
- Salinity: 0 ppt



Example HIS Model - Alligator

Future Without Action - Alligator Habitat Suitability Index
Medium Scenario, Year 50



HSI Model Results for Master Plan:

1. The plan improves habitat for mottled ducks and alligators compared to no plan.
2. The plan increases habitat for green-winged teal compared to current conditions, but reduced habitat compared to no plan.
3. The plan produces similar suitable habitat for gadwall and brown pelicans as compared to current conditions or no plan.



Freshwater Diversions



Davis Pond

- 10,650cfs – maximum
- Began operations in July 2002 (sort of)

Picture: USACE:
mvn.usace.army.mil
CPRA –
coastal.la.gov

Freshwater Diversions



Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion

- 8,000cfs – maximum
- Began operations in August 1991



USACE –
lacoast.gov

Alligator Nest Counts within the Freshwater Diversion Project Areas

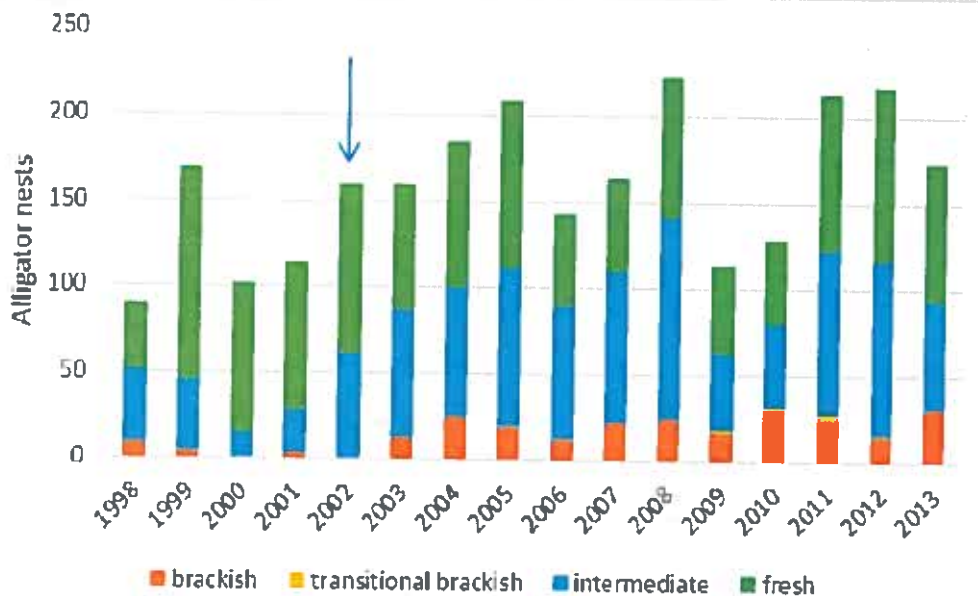


Figure 12. Alligator nest counts by year. Blue arrows indicate year of diversion opening.

Davis Pond



Waterfowl and Coot Surveys within Freshwater Diversion Project Areas

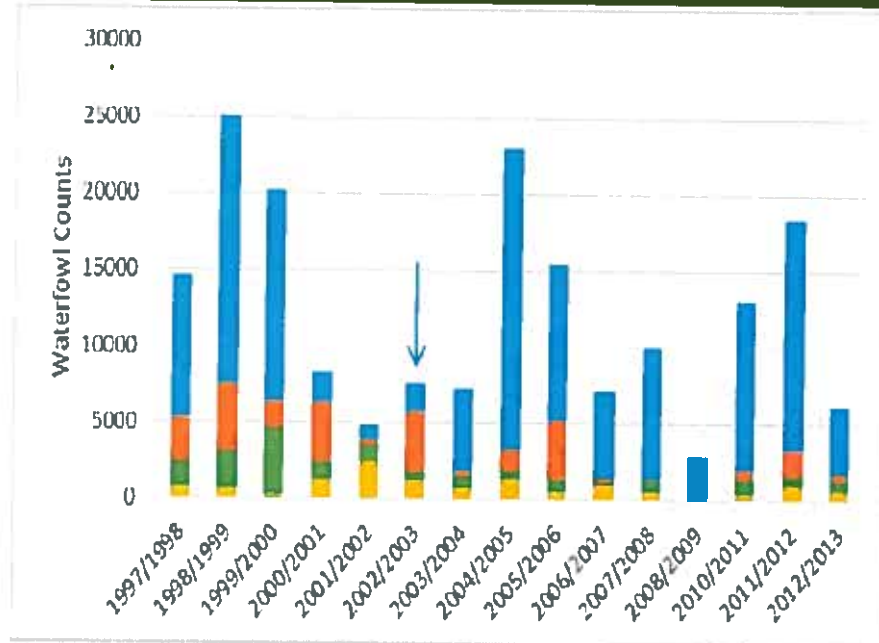


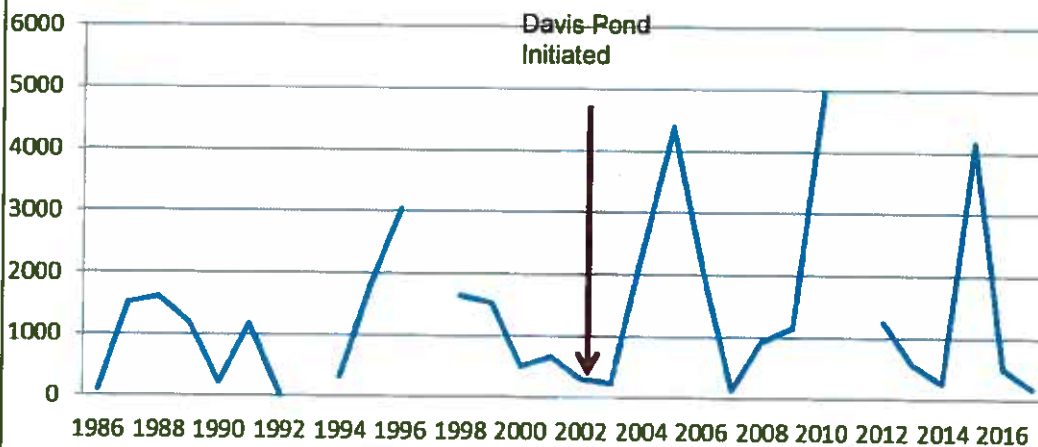
Figure 13. Total number of waterfowl counted per season. Blue arrows indicate year of diversion opening.

Davis Pond

CPRA 2013
Operations Reports

Waterfowl Observed On January Coastal Waterfowl Survey Transect over Davis Pond

Waterfowl Observed on Transect 23



Waterfowl Hunter Success per WMA



Salvador WMA (SALWMA) is the only WMA in the influence area of an existing freshwater diversion. The Davis Pond diversion empties directly into the WMA.

Existing Sediment Diversions:

- Crevasses – Mississippi River Delta
- Wax Lake Delta

Both examples are uncontrolled and have continuous flow

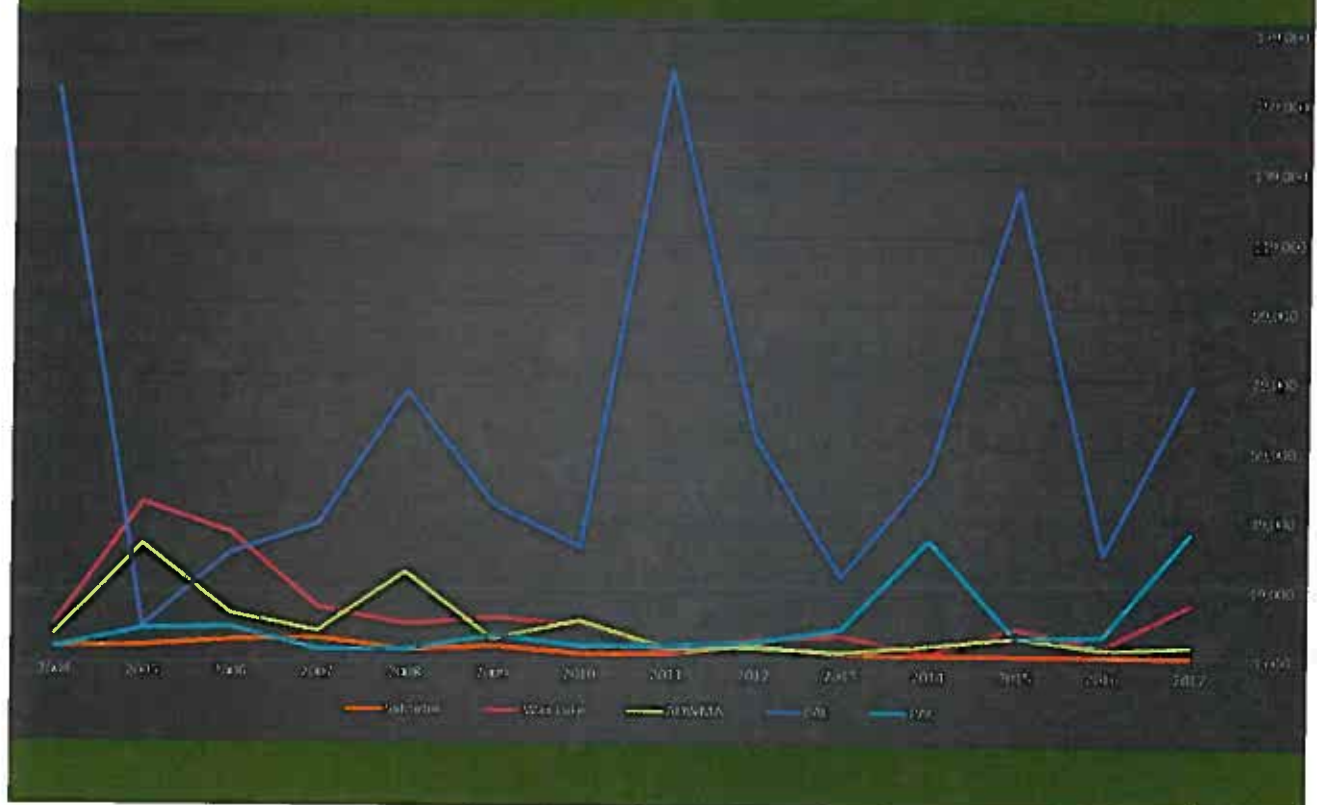




1964 – 2005 - 2016 Wax Lake Delta



WMAs Coastal Waterfowl Surveys



Species Likely to Benefit from Successful Sediment Diversion Projects:



Species that may not benefit from Sediment Diversions



Questions?





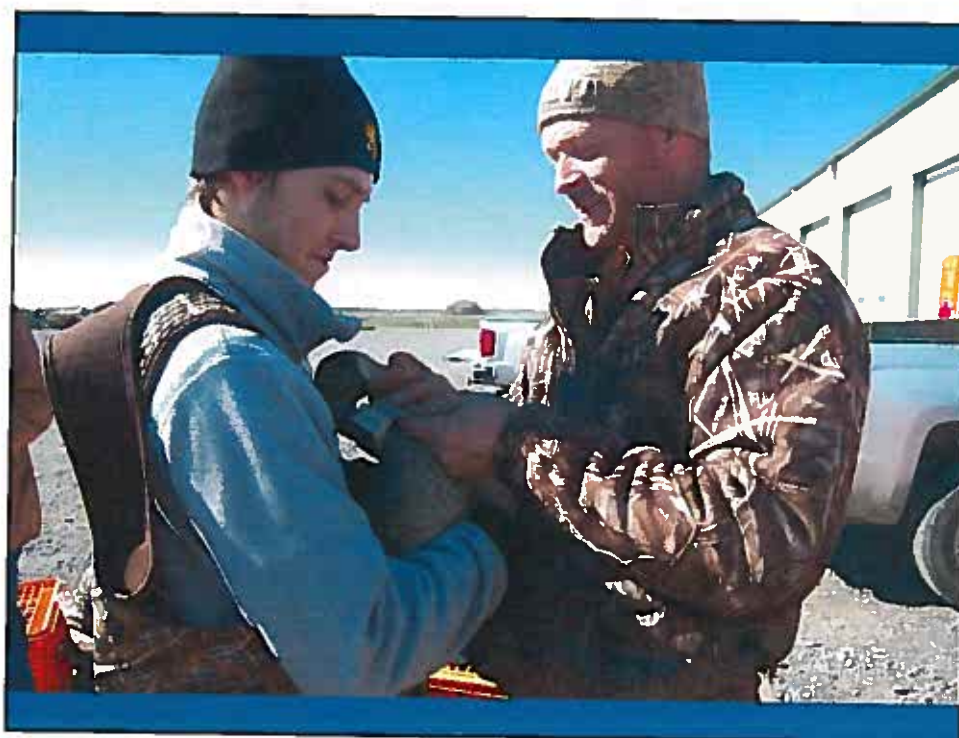


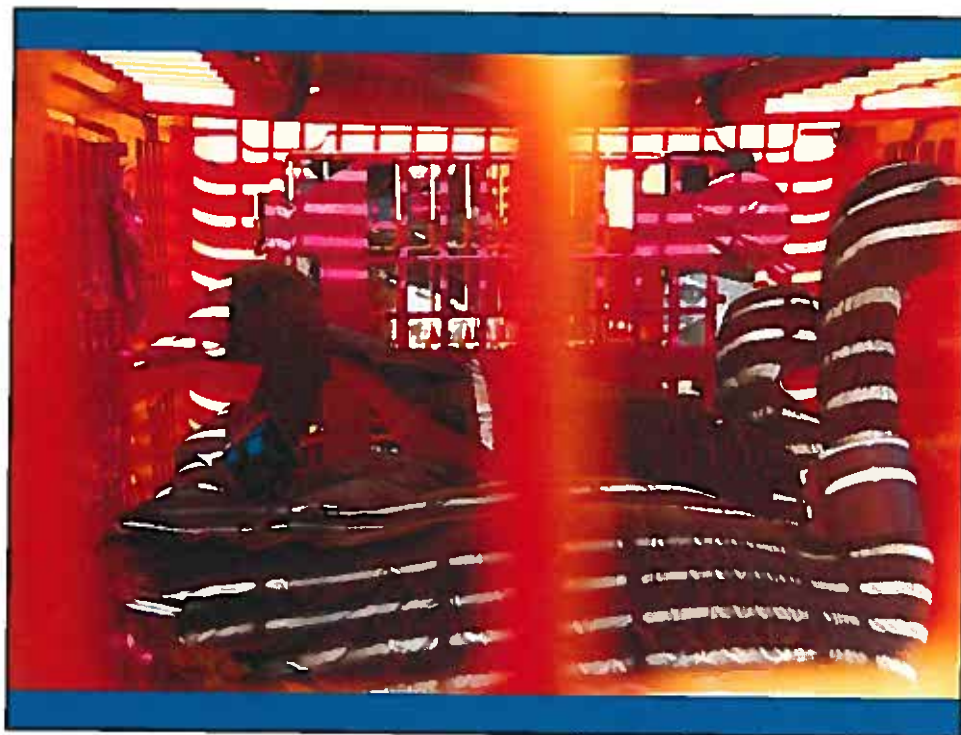
2015 Birds

- Boo-Yak (captured 18Oct2015)
 - Departed SK on 19Oct non-stop to Bellzoni, MS
 - 1 day near Mer Rouge then rest of winter in AR
- LPI2 (captured 18Oct2015)
 - Departed SK on 13Oct, spent 5 days refueling in IA, overnighed in MO, then spend several weeks near Stuttgart
 - Moved into Mer Rouge area 13Nov, then spent 3Dec-23Feb in SWLA
- Quint (captured 12Nov2015)
 - Departed SK on 7Nov
 - Went offline on 6Dec near Stuttgart, AR
- General (captured 22Nov2015)
 - Departed SK 19Nov, arrived near Stuttgart on 20Nov, and went offline 23Nov near Bellzoni, MS





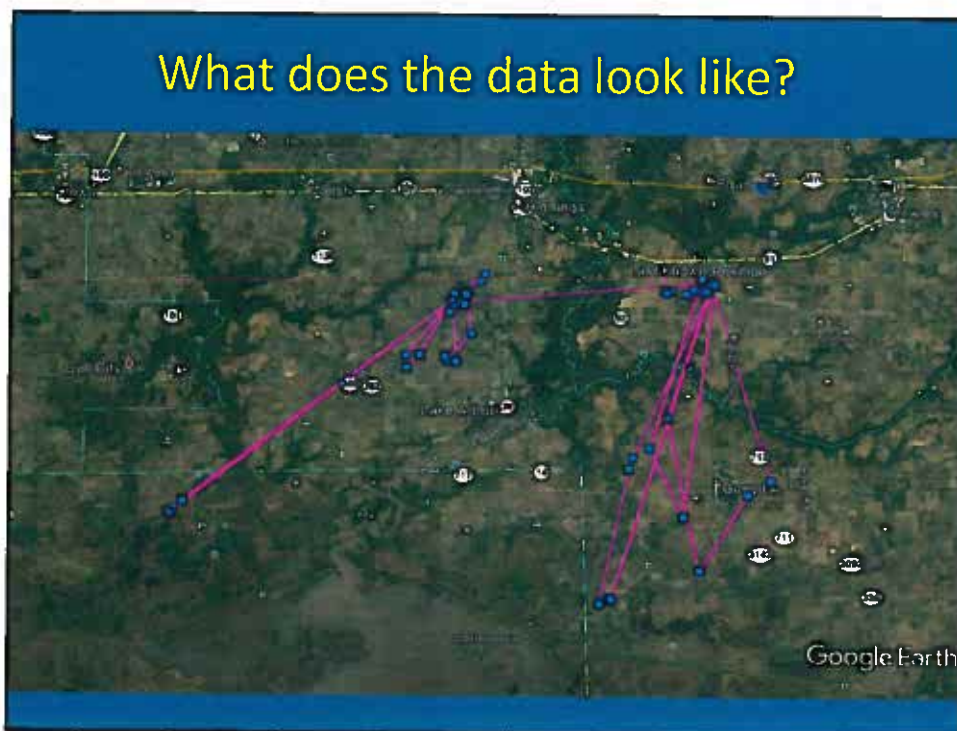




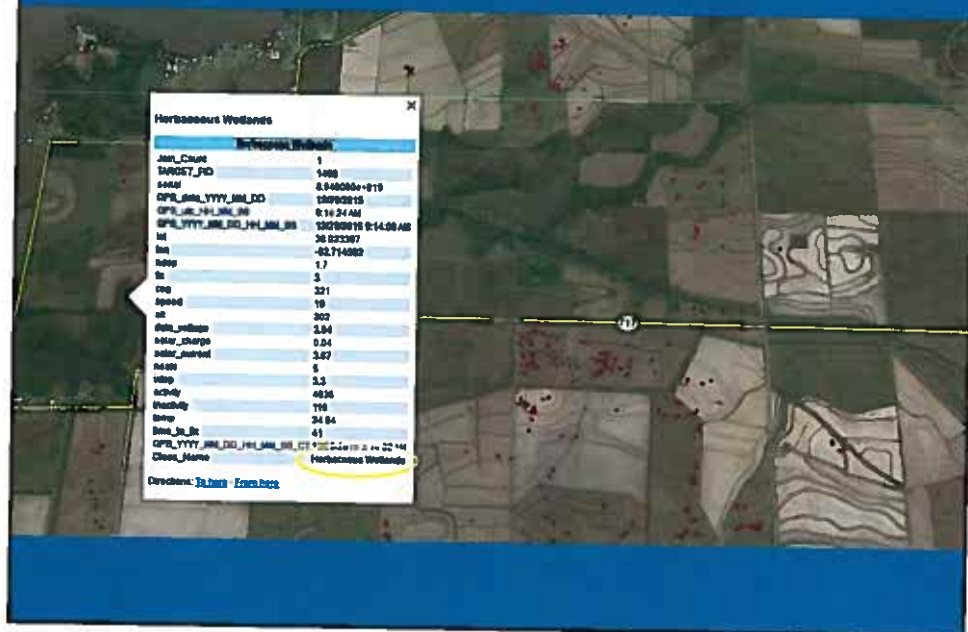
What does the data look like?

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with a large table of data. The columns are labeled with letters A through Z. The data appears to be a log of events or measurements over time, with columns for date, time, and various numerical values. The data is organized into rows, with some rows highlighted in yellow. The spreadsheet is titled 'L42 Link 1000 - Microsoft Excel'.

What does the data look like?



Ground Truth Locations



Ground Truth

- Type, height, and water depth
- Presence and type of waterfowl
- Attempted to do thru the windshield
- Utilized drone for difficult locations

Greater White-fronted Goose Observation Labels

Vegetation Height

E: >20"

D: 6" to 20"

C: 2" to 6"

B: >0" to 2"

A: Dry, 0"

Water Depth

>6":Z

2" to 6":Y

>0" to 2":X

Dry, 0":W

Rice - Harvested	1
Rice - Unharvested	2
Soybeans	3
Pasture	4
Rye Pasture	5
Marsh	6
Mudflat Soil	7
Soil Agriculture	8
Cornfield and Agriculture	9

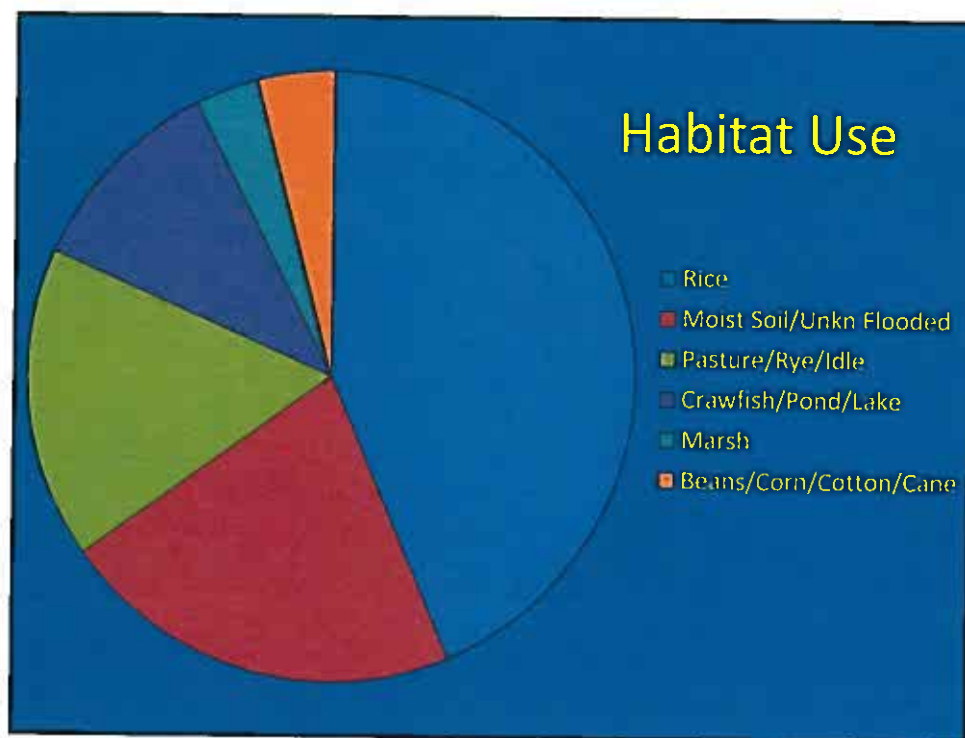




Data Madness

[illegible]

Veg height A=0 B=0.2 C=2.5 D=5-20 E=20
Water depth A=0 X=0.2 Y=2.5 Z=5



Transmitter Performance

- Early issues with predation
- Hunter harvests
- Transmitter failures
- Unknown
- **Blizzard Battlers**



Last Known Locations



Future Plans

- Continue monitoring
- Myriad of analytical opportunities
- Hire 2 techs for this winter
- Deploy more units



Questions?
plink@wlf.la.gov





LOUISIANA **DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

SECURING A LEGACY OF HABITAT CONSERVATION
IN SASKATCHEWAN



YOUR CONSERVATION REPORT

April 2016 to March 2017 Conservation Report
Submitted by Ducks Unlimited Canada and Ducks Unlimited Inc.



OVERVIEW

This report highlights DUC's habitat accomplishments within Saskatchewan's Allan/Dana Hills, Coteau, Lightning, Trampling Lake East and Upper Assiniboine priority areas during the period of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

INSIDE

Overview	2
Sound Science	3
Priority Areas	4
Funding & Accomplishments	5
Securing the Legacy	7
APPENDIX	8

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is the world leader in wetland conservation.

Since 1937, DU has been investing in waterfowl and wildlife habitat conservation in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In Canada alone, DU has completed over 9,896 habitat projects, securing 6.4 million acres and positively influencing over 143.9 million acres of habitat that benefit waterfowl, wildlife and people. Besides waterfowl, numerous species of wildlife, including many threatened or endangered species live and flourish on DU projects.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has contributed to waterfowl conservation on the Canadian Prairies since 1965. This partnership with DU recognizes the importance of Canadian waterfowl production to Louisiana hunters.

Over the past 52 years, Louisiana has contributed \$11.5M to this effort.

In May 2016, DU requested funding from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in response to the critical waterfowl needs of the Saskatchewan Prairie Pothole Region (PPR). This request was for the amount of \$325,000 to support DUC's conservation efforts in FY 2017* on these breeding grounds.

LDWF subsequently contributed \$314,749.60 to support this important work. This final report highlights LDWF funding that was matched by DU, and the combined total matched by the North America Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), and other partners, to realize **\$1,258,998.40** With a strengthening US dollar we applied an exchange gain of 1.3125 on the funding resulting in **\$1,652,435.40 CAD** in support of conservation efforts in the Saskatchewan PPR priority areas and surrounding landscapes.

** April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017*



BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE

SOUND SCIENCE

DUC uses the best scientific research available to direct, evaluate and modify DUC's conservation programs and practices so that DUC can most effectively meet the conservation needs of waterfowl in the PPR. This union of science and conservation sets DUC apart from other non-government conservation organizations in Canada.

DUC has led the last 30 years of *waterfowl breeding research as related to habitat conditions* in the Canadian PPR. Scientists searched over 350,000 acres of habitat for nests, radio tracked 3,620 mallard hens, monitored 936 mallard/pintail broods, and located and determined the nesting fate of over 37,000 nests. This information has greatly increased our understanding of nesting duck habitat selection and success.

The research supports DUC's efforts to develop strategic waterfowl habitat conservation plans that are implemented and evaluated using a *waterfowl productivity model*. Based on the model, DUC has defined waterfowl needs for its priority landscapes in the PPR and specifically, habitat actions needed to restore duck populations within these landscapes. These needs are represented in the habitat objectives set out in the *PHJV Implementation Plan*.

DUC, Canadian government and industry partners have committed to research to better understand landscape change. Studies on wetland loss, nutrient loading, flood prediction and carbon sequestration has been a recent focus of DUC's science effort. This work has led to valuable science that is currently guiding changes to wetland protection, watershed planning and agricultural programs on the Canadian prairies.

Wetland conservation that benefits our environment, economy and future and that is based on sound science will further help to sustain North America's waterfowl populations.



YOUR SUPPORT IS KEY

LDWF funding provides a significant contribution to the goals of the PHJV. Although much remains to be accomplished, this funding is critical to our joint efforts to reach these important goals.

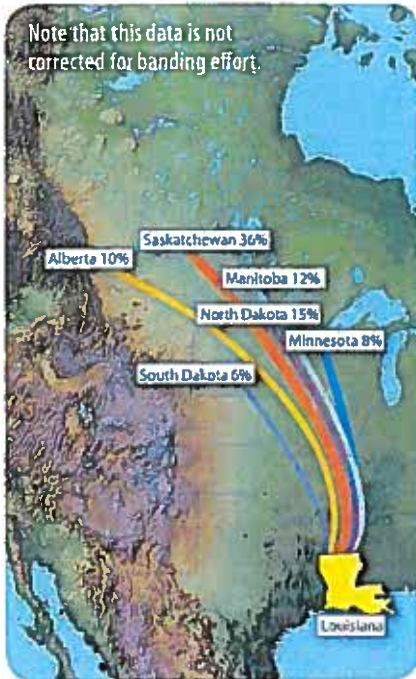


DUC is a proud partner of the NAWMP. The PHJV, a partnership led by federal and provincial governments, DUC, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Wildlife Habitat Canada, has collaborated on waterfowl conservation under NAWMP in Prairie Canada since 1986. DUC leads the delivery of conservation programs and science to support NAWMP goals on the Canadian Prairies. The success of DUC's programs in Saskatchewan, particularly in the prairie pothole-laden target areas, are critical in supporting the NAWMP goal of achieving sustainable waterfowl production. The PHJV goal for 2013 – 2020 is to protect 684,000 acres, restore and enhance an additional 384,000 acres, quantify benefits to shorebirds, waterbirds and landbirds and build public support for conservation.

PRIORITY AREAS

BAND RECOVERIES

Origin of ducks harvested in Louisiana from 1986-2012.



WATERFOWL BREEDING

Breeding duck density and distribution within the PPR of Saskatchewan.

Yellow and red areas represent the highest duck densities in the province.

This map is based on over 50 years of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey data and represents average waterfowl distribution over the long term.

Saskatchewan is an important source for waterfowl migrating to Louisiana.

Waterfowl band recovery data has clearly established that waterfowl produced and banded in Saskatchewan comprise a substantial proportion of the overall waterfowl population of the Mississippi Flyway. Data further supports that DUC's conservation priority areas, supported by the LDWF funds, are a primary source for waterfowl harvested in Louisiana.

Efforts must strategically target the 'best of the best' of these habitats to most effectively benefit waterfowl populations.

The highest densities of breeding ducks in North America occur in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of Canada. Located within the PPR are the Prairie and the Aspen Parkland Eco-regions of Saskatchewan, which are composed of a diversity of wetland and upland habitats. These habitat characteristics make this area key to waterfowl production and provide a basis to strategically deliver conservation programs. Although the value of habitats across the PPR have been degraded and continue to be at risk, based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey data, the PPR and particularly these priority areas, continue to stand out as the *'best of the best'* breeding habitats in North America.

Key priority areas within the PPR of Saskatchewan have been selected as the focus for LDWF funding. These include the Missouri Coteau, Trampling Lake East, Allan/Dana Hills, Touchwood Hills, Upper Assiniboine and Lightning Creek priority areas (see map below).

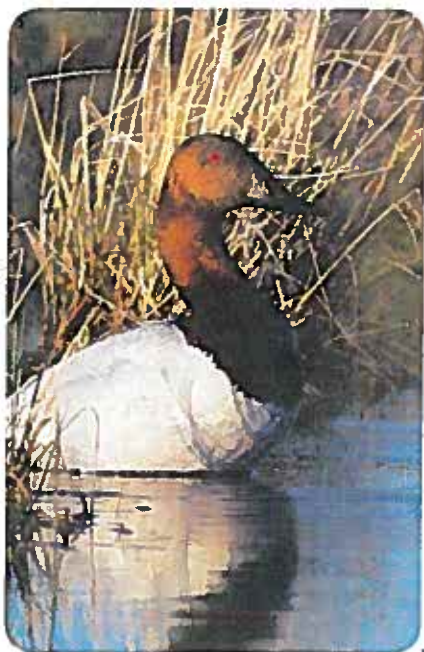


Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp.
GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance
Survey, Esri, Japan, METI, Esri, China (Hong Kong), and the GIS User community

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FUNDING

The LDWF's contribution of \$314,749.60 toward the priority areas in the Saskatchewan prairie pothole region was matched by DU, NAWCA and other partner funds totaling \$1,258,998.40. Exchange gain of 1.3125 resulted in \$1,652,435.40 CAD expended.



DU and NAWMP remain focused on the PPR of Canada and Canadian partners continue to grow their support with long term match at 50% of the total funds expended under the NAWMP in Canada.

Based on the FY2017 request, DUC has delivered against specific objectives for the following habitat initiatives in Saskatchewan.

Habitat Initiative	Goals (acres)	Accomplishments (acres)	Program Costs (\$)
Habitat Retention	3,500	3,722	\$1,147,776
Wetland Restoration	67	22	Other funds*
Upland Restoration	900	1,696	\$201,399
Habitat Asset Management**	91,667	176,251	\$303,260
Total	4,467	5,442	\$1,652,435

* Other Funds - these program costs were paid for with funding from all Canadian sources. Acres are displayed to demonstrate that the program was still active.

** Habitat Asset Management acres are not incremental and are therefore not included in the total acre goals.

Habitat Retention

Drainage of wetlands and breaking of native grass uplands continue to be the most significant activities negatively impacting waterfowl. DUC uses a variety of program tools to protect remaining habitats that are vital to the long-term waterfowl productivity of Saskatchewan.

Conservation easements and agreements - protect habitats on private lands by offering financial incentives for varying levels of protection. Conservation easements are one of the most cost effective methods DUC uses for protecting habitat. They offer perpetual protection with a reduced total investment. Conservation easements are perpetual and are mostly done in partnership with provincial and federal government agencies. Conservation agreements are a minimum of 10 years and many were secured for less than a \$35 per acre investment by DU.

Land purchase - is the most intensive program that DU delivers and is an important tool to protect highly valued habitats at high risk. As the cost of purchasing land continues to rise, DU invests in habitat to ensure the greatest waterfowl benefits are derived. DU is seven years and 35,000 acres into a 10-year allowance to purchase up to 100,000 acres of conservation habitat in Saskatchewan.

Revolving Land Purchase - is a program tool whereby DU can purchase land to restore wetlands and grasslands and then sell the property with a perpetual conservation easement protecting all habitats. This tool is valuable in extending the impact of our conservation funding as well as achieving habitat protection and restoration in areas that are difficult to find willing landowners to restore habitat or sign conservation easements.

Wetland rebuilds - are a re-investment into existing wetland projects that are highly productive and successful for waterfowl. These projects have met and surpassed their original design and agreement terms and require new infrastructure and agreements to ensure their productive capacity for another 30 years. DU renews agreements with the landowners on the project and constructs or repairs the required physical improvements to maximize wetland productivity and waterfowl recruitment.

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat, which is a fall-seeded crop, is particularly beneficial to northern pintails, a species that remains below long term populations since the late 1970s.



Wetland Restoration

Most wetland restoration work occurs on private lands. More than 75 years of program delivery has taught us that it takes a combination of intensive and extensive programs to successfully work with producers. DUC is currently using other programs such as land purchase and revolving land purchase to initiate efforts to restore wetlands. Wetland restoration efforts continue to be a high priority and DUC will continue to pursue wetland restoration opportunities that come available.

Upland Restoration

Duck nest success is a major factor for influencing continental waterfowl populations. Improving nest success in the priority areas and surrounding PPR will require the restoration of grass to provide secure nesting habitat. DUC focused significant efforts on restoring perennial cover in the priority areas through two primary efforts:

Forage conversion programs - provide incentives to landowners to convert cultivated land to perennial cover to provide waterfowl nesting benefits and support the beef industry. For waterfowl, the increase in forage provides more nesting choices with better protection from predators.

Winter wheat programs - focus on the agronomic and economic benefits of the crop to the producer. Approaches vary from supporting research to developing new varieties that are more successful in the Canadian prairies, to working more directly with the producers through incentive or extension programs. DUC's research has confirmed that there are 24 times more ducks hatched in winter wheat compared to spring wheat on a per acre basis.

Habitat Asset Management

Because of DUC's success, we have amassed an inventory of more than 1.8 million acres of habitat on 2,960 conservation projects in Saskatchewan. In order to ensure these projects return the maximum benefit to waterfowl an annual investment of resources is required. Habitat asset management activities include annual maintenance, grassland rejuvenation, water level management and repair of damaged water level management infrastructure.



DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA'S HINSBURG PROJECT

SECURING A LEGACY

Ducks Unlimited and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are working together to conserve the 'best of the best' waterfowl habitats in Saskatchewan.

Only through your support can we continue these important efforts.

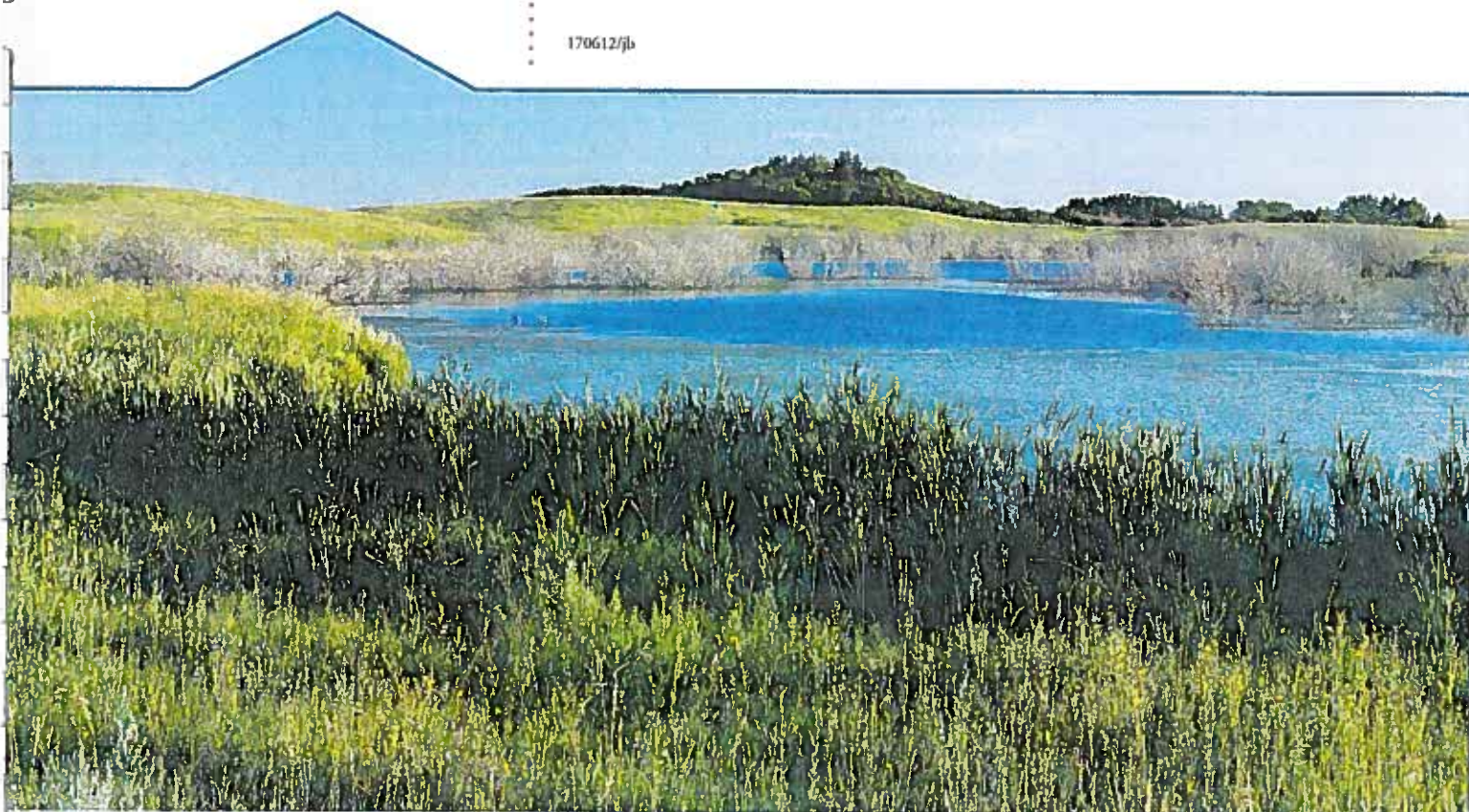
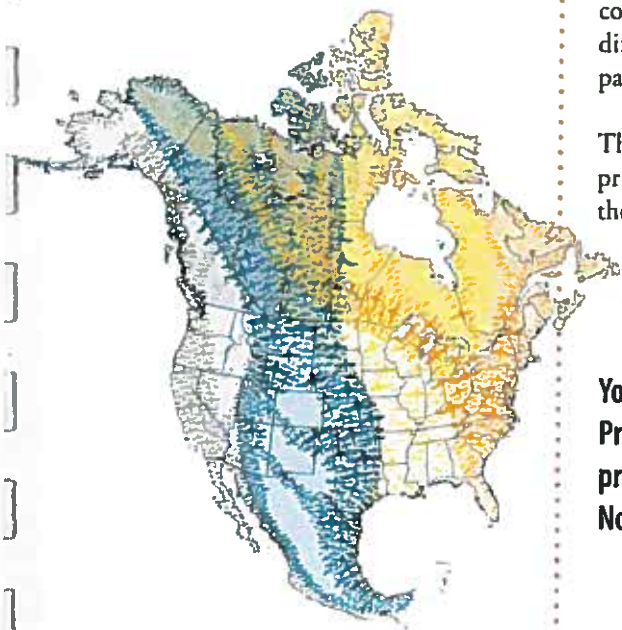
The *PHJV Implementation Plan* and DU have set habitat objectives to fully recover the Canadian Prairies and to sustain waterfowl production. Continued partnerships will be the key to success.

DU values its relationship with LDWF and recognizes them as a key player in supporting NAWMP conservation efforts in Canada. Your support for conservation in the heart of waterfowl production is making a significant difference in the future of waterfowl. However, increased support from all partners is needed if the goals of NAWMP are to be met.

The waterfowl community continues to recognize habitat programs as the primary solution to waterfowl recovery. DUC is the primary delivery agent of the NAWMP program in the PPR of Canada.

Your support and continued action on the Canadian Prairies means that critical waterfowl habitat will be protected in the top waterfowl production area of North America.

170612/jls



APPENDIX - Accomplishment Details



Habitat Initiative	Direct Programs	Extension Programs	FY17 Total	FY17 Costs
	(Acres) ¹	(Acres) ²	(Acres)	
Habitat Retention				
Conservation Easements	1,301	-	1,301	\$311,903
Land Purchase	359	-	359	\$448,043
Revolving Land Purchase (RLP) ³	174	-	174	\$26,132
Conservation Easement on RLP	409	-	409	\$133,613
Lease / Conservation Agmt	1,655	36,236	37,891	\$228,085
Sub-total	3,724	36,236	39,960	\$1,147,776
Wetland Restoration	22	-	22	Other Funds ⁴
Upland Restoration				
Conservation Forages	1,696	-	1,696	\$86,963
Winter Wheat	-	26,324	26,324	\$33,015
Nesting Cover Enhancement ⁵	-	-	445	\$81,421
Sub-total	1,696	26,324	28,020	\$201,399
Total Acres	5,442	62,560	68,002	
Habitat Management ⁶			176,251	\$303,260
Total Expenditure FY17				\$1,652,435

1. *Direct programs – Programs whereby DUC directly impacts actions of producers, improves, or protects habitat.*

2. *Extension/Influence – Are acres impacted whereby DUC extends technical advice and influences land management decisions that are beneficial to both landowners and waterfowl habitat.*

3. *Revolving Land Purchase program - Uses non-partner funds for the acquisition and partner funds for other direct and staff costs. The acres are not counted as incremental because these will be captured as conservation easements when the land is sold.*

4. *Other Funds - These program costs were paid for with funding from all Canadian sources. Acres are displayed to demonstrate that the program was still active.*

5. *Nesting Cover Enhancement - The acres in this category were previously secured and are not included in the total of habitat accomplishments.*

6. *Habitat Management - These acres include the existing projects requiring annual management to maintain healthy habitats. The acres in this category are not included in the total of habitat accomplishments.*

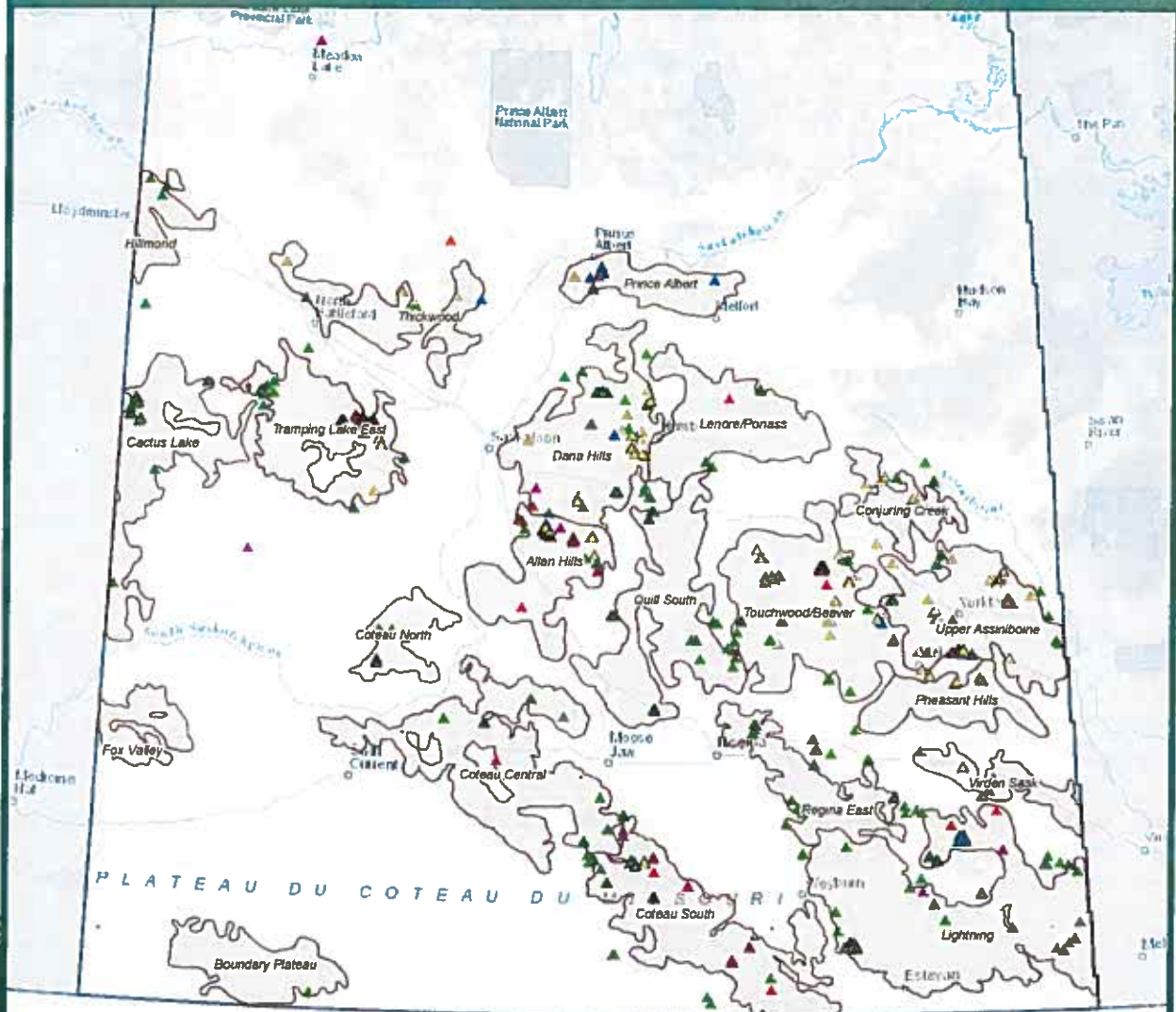


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Segments Secured in FY 2017

Saskatchewan



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), and the GIS User Community



Securement Method

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Purchase | Lease |
| Paid CE | Management Agreement |
| Conservation Agreement | Other Programs |

DUC Priority Areas



0 45 90 180

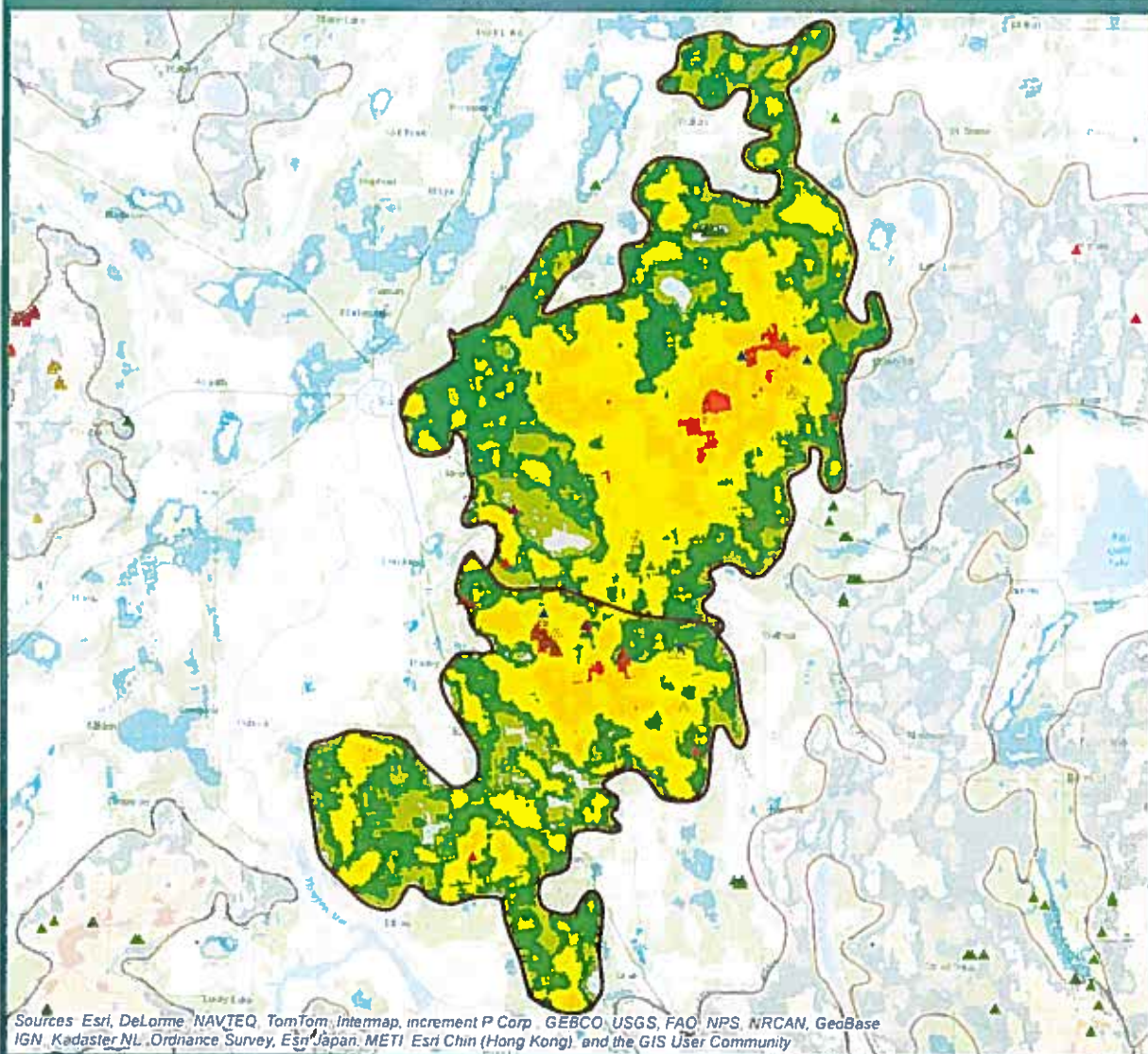
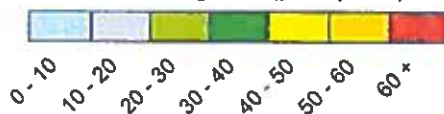
Kilometers
NAD83 UTM Zone 13N

Sources:
DUC Inventory, Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2017,
World Topographic Map, Environmental
Systems Research Institute (ESRI), 2017



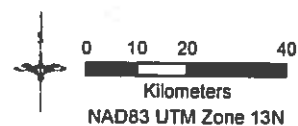
Segments Secured in FY 2017

Allan/Dana Hills Priority Landscapes, Saskatchewan

**Predicted Breeding Pairs (per sq. mile)**

Securement Method

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Purchase |  Lease |
|  Paid CE |  Management Agreement |
|  Conservation Agreement |  Other Programs |



Sources.
DUC Inventory, Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2017;
World Topographic Map, Environmental
Systems Research Institute (ESRI), 2017

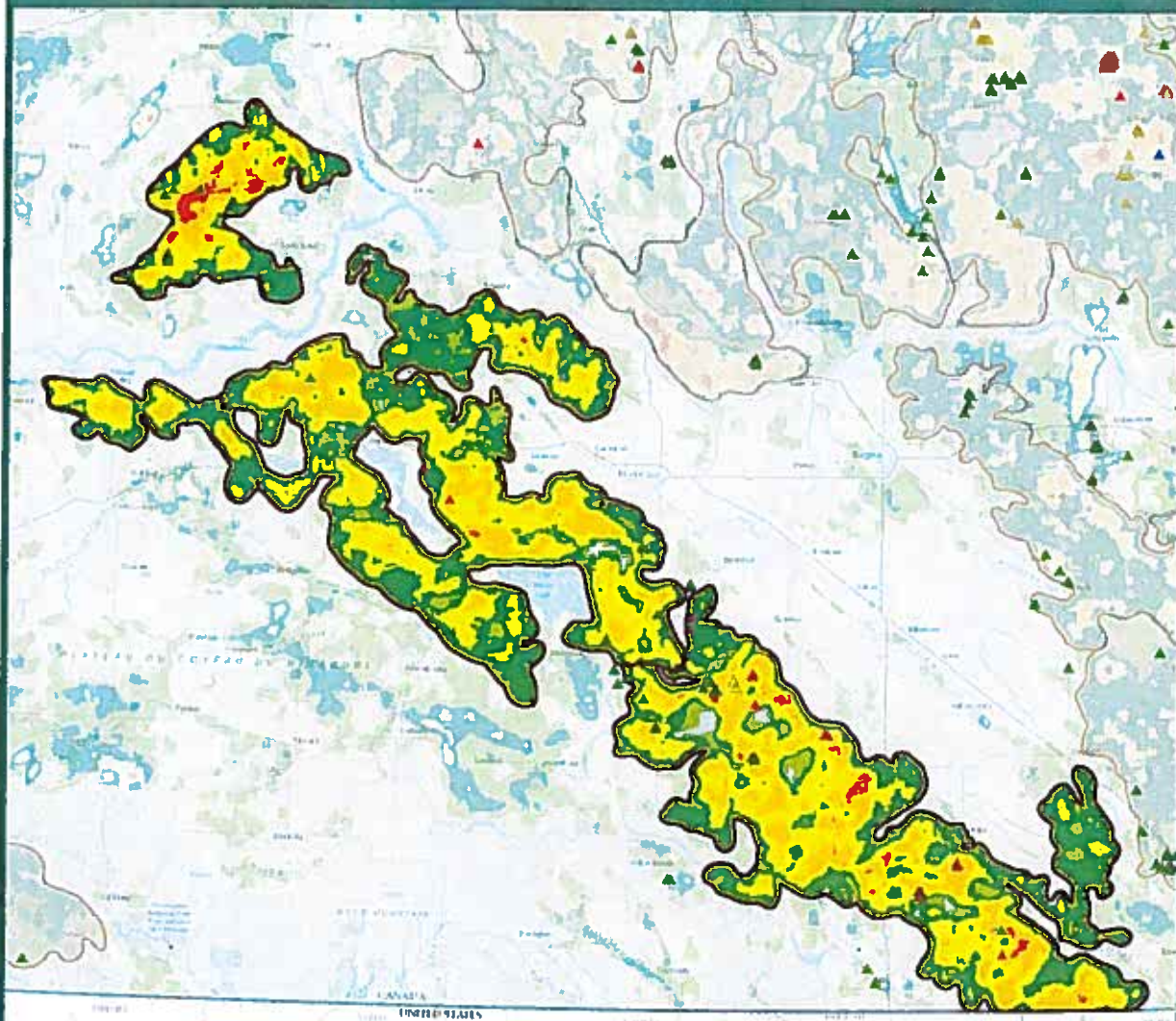


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Ducks Unlimited Canada

Segments Secured in FY 2017

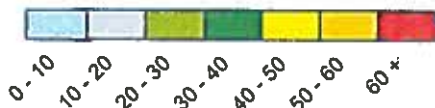
Coteau Priority Landscapes,
Saskatchewan



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), and the GIS User Community

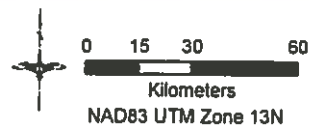


Predicted Breeding Pairs (per sq. mile)



Securement Method

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Purchase | Lease |
| Paid CE | Management Agreement |
| Conservation Agreement | Other Programs |



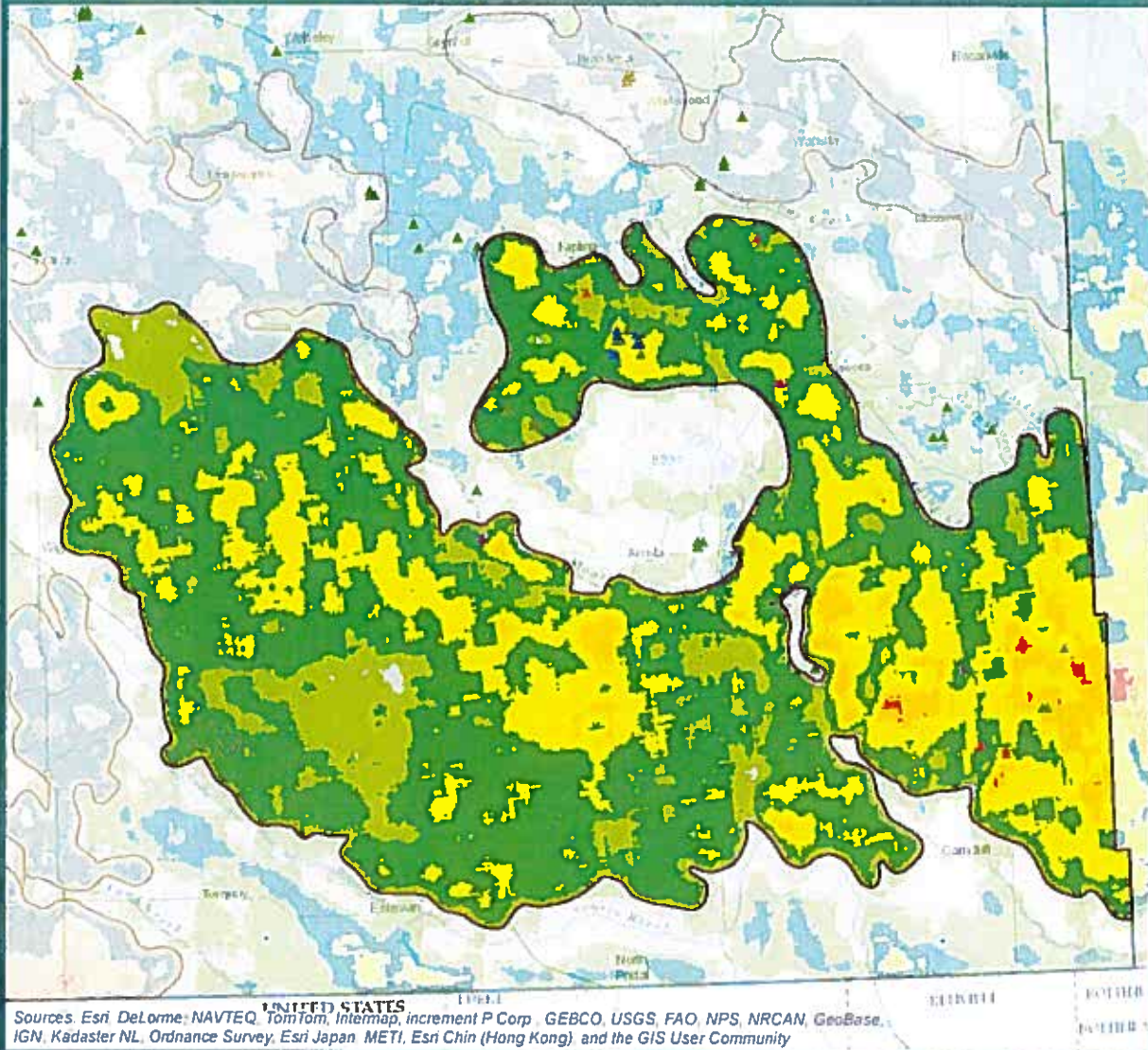
Sources:
DUC Inventory, Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2017;
World Topographic Map, Environmental
Systems Research Institute (ESRI), 2017



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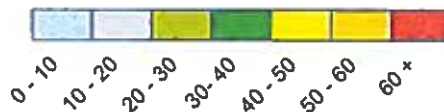
Segments Secured in 2017
Lightning Priority Landscape,
Saskatchewan



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), and the GIS User Community

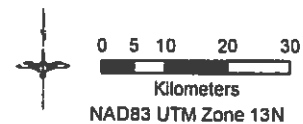


Predicted Breeding Pairs (per sq. mile)



Securement Method

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ▲ Purchase | ▲ Lease |
| ▲ Paid CE | ▲ Management Agreement |
| ▲ Conservation Agreement | ▲ Other Programs |



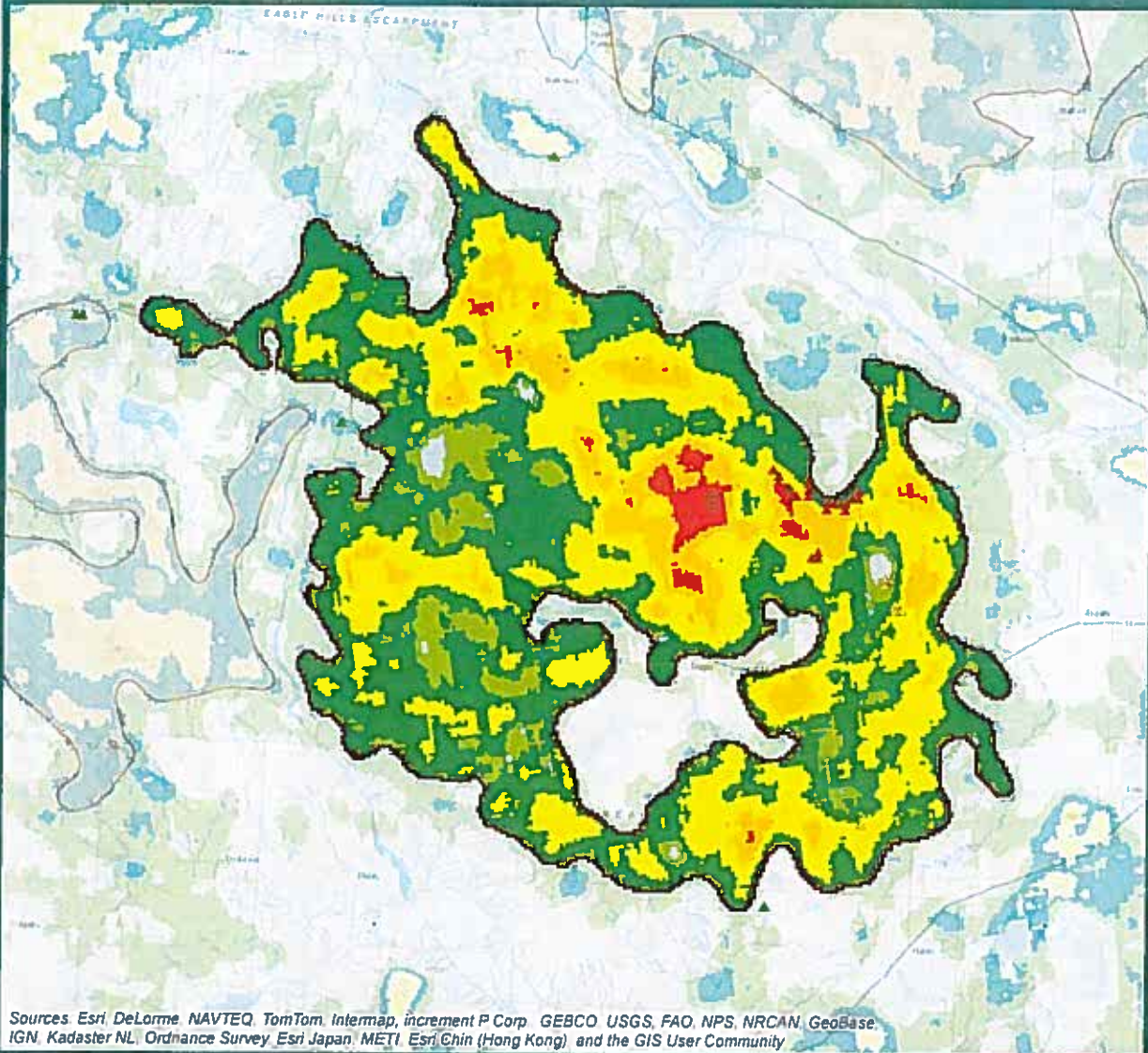
Sources:
DUC Inventory, Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2017;
World Topographic Map, Environmental
Systems Research Institute (ESRI), 2017.



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Ducks Unlimited Canada

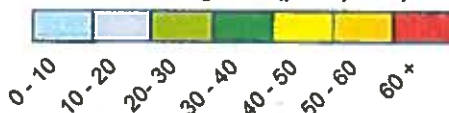
Segments Secured in FY 2017
Tramping Lake East Priority Landscape,
Saskatchewan



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), and the GIS User Community

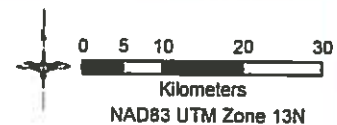


Predicted Breeding Pairs (per sq. mile)



Securement Method

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ▲ Purchase | ▲ Lease |
| ▲ Paid CE | ▲ Management Agreement |
| ▲ Conservation Agreement | ▲ Other Programs |



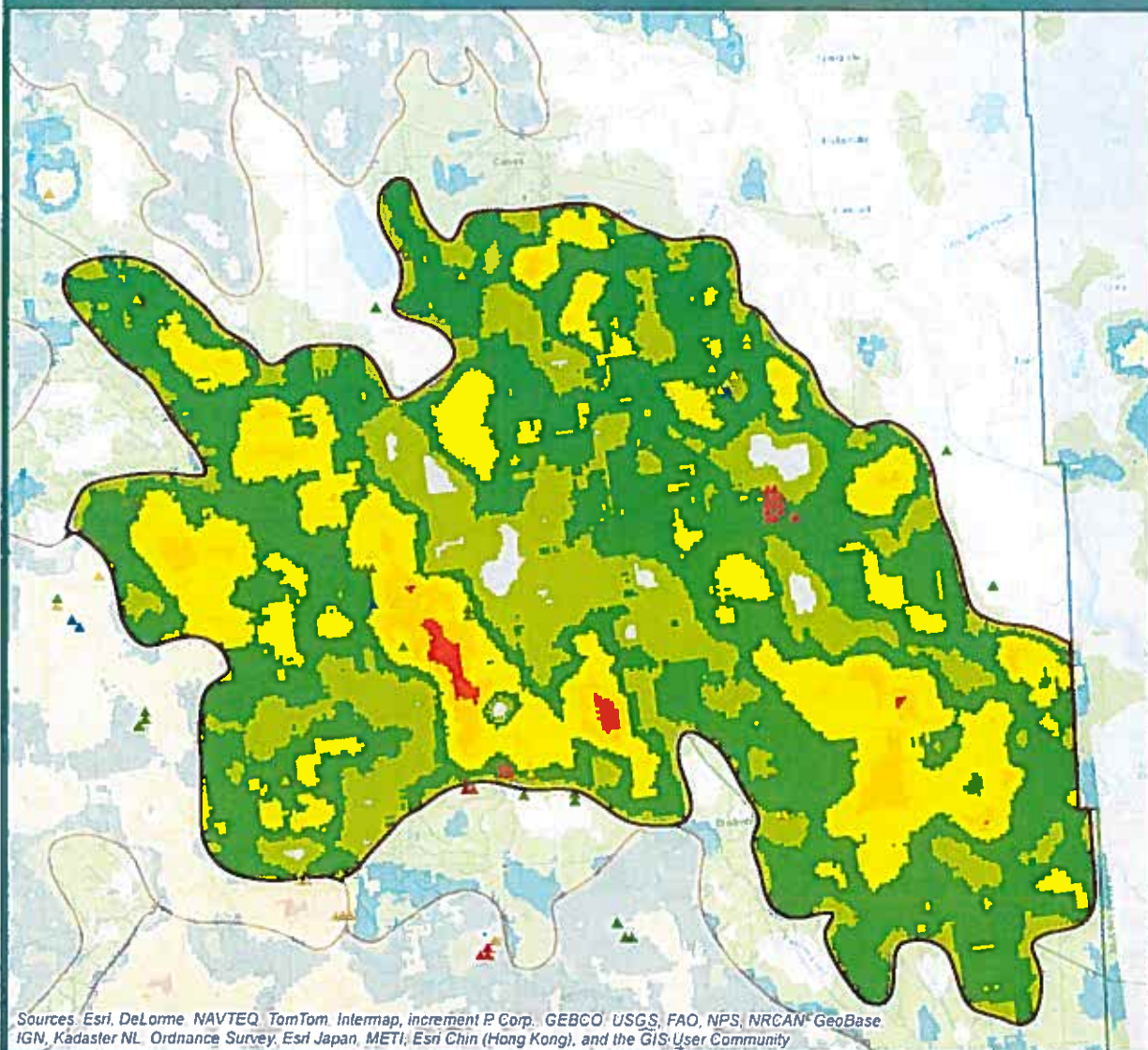
Sources:
DUC Inventory, Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2017;
World Topographic Map, Environmental
Systems Research Institute (ESRI), 2017



Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

Ducks Unlimited Canada

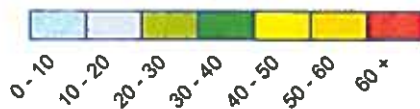
Segments Secured in FY 2017
Upper Assiniboine Priority Landscape,
Saskatchewan



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), and the GIS User Community

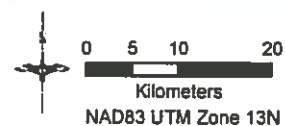


Predicted Breeding Pairs (per sq. mile)



Securement Method

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Purchase | Lease |
| Paid CE | Management Agreement |
| Conservation Agreement | Other Programs |



Sources:
DUC Inventory, Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2017;
World Topographic Map, Environmental
Systems Research Institute (ESRI), 2017.



LA CREEL SURVEY

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting
Baton Rouge, LA
July 6, 2017

Outline

- How did we get to LA Creel
- Purpose of LA Creel
- Design Criteria
- Key Elements of LA Creel
- Survey Methodology
 - Access Point Survey (weekly dockside)
 - Effort Survey (weekly phone and e-mail)
 - Estimation Calculation
- Timeline to generate estimates
- LA Creel Data (with confidence limits where appropriate)
 - Trips / Effort
 - Landings
- Differences in confidence limits versus MRIP
- Benefits of LA Creel



LA CREEL SURVEY

How Did We Get Where We Are Today?

- Louisiana has been involved with MRFSS/MRIP since the early 1980's
- LDWF began collecting MRFSS in the late 1990's
- Throughout this time LDWF found several issues with the survey
 - Inability to obtain reliable landings at a basin or sub-state level
 - Insufficient sample size (CPUE, size frequency, age data, etc.)
 - Angler participation estimates far exceeded recreational licenses
 - Precision of landings estimates for many species was and remains poor
 - Landing estimates not timely enough to monitor in-season quotas



LA CREEL SURVEY

How Did We Get Where We Are Today?

- December, 2011 –NOI for ROLP, Yellowfin Tuna Reporting Requirements – to better track recreational harvest. YFT not regulated under Gulf Council, not well-documented in MRIP survey
- June, 2012 - Tuna Harvest Regulations -- Yellowfin tuna reporting requirements final rule published
- July, 2012 - NOI to add Reef Fish to ROLP
- December, 2012 - ROLP Reef Fish Final Rule Publication.



LA CREEL SURVEY

How Did We Get Where We Are Today?

- In 2012 Louisiana proposed a Regional Management approach for managing the red snapper recreational fishery – That prompted us to develop an intensive red snapper landings survey in 2013
- Louisiana dropped its participation in the MRIP survey and began **LA Creel** on January 1, 2014



LA CREEL SURVEY

How Did We Get Where We Are Today?

- LDWF requested MRIP Certification January 7, 2015
- LA Creel Peer Review – June 2-3, 2015
- Side-by-side surveys in 2015 for purposes of Benchmarking
- Benchmarking evaluation and provisional MRIP certification in 2016
- Continuing down full certification road



LA Creel Survey

PURPOSE

To provide **statistically significant** recreational fishery information to aid in management of **Louisiana's valuable fishery resources**. The saltwater component of the recreational fishery encompasses state waters including marsh habitat, bays, beaches and nearshore areas as well as the offshore federally managed waters of the EEZ.



LA Creel Survey

Design Criteria

- Increase the speed with which harvest data can be compiled into landings summaries
- Create a flexible design able to quickly respond to changing needs
- Provide information on area-specific harvest for all species landed by anglers
- Maximize survey efficiency and minimize burden on anglers



Key Features of LA Creel

- Inshore/Offshore site stratification
- Recreational offshore landing permit (ROLP)
- Separate biological sampling program
- Weekly landing estimates



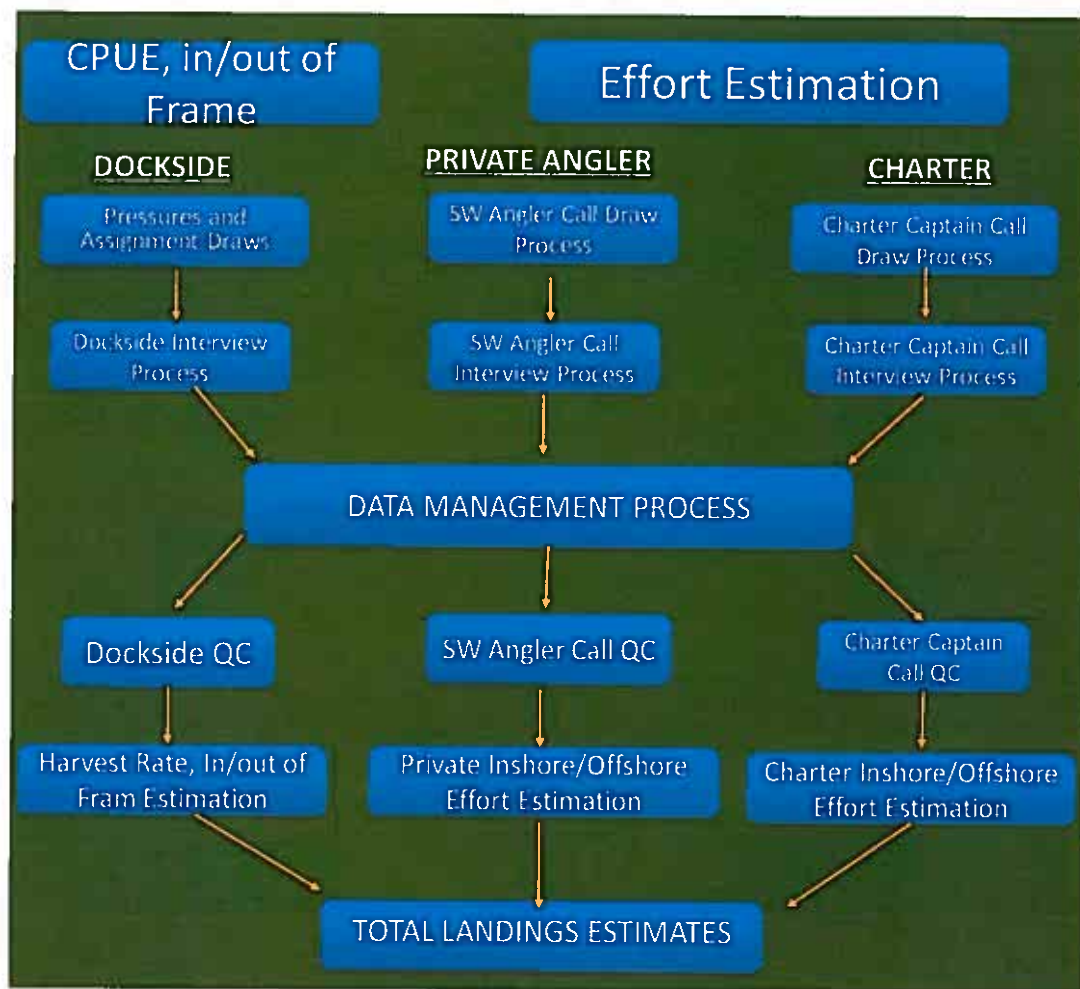
LA Creel Survey General Methodology

Recreational landings are estimated separately for the private recreational and for-hire sectors

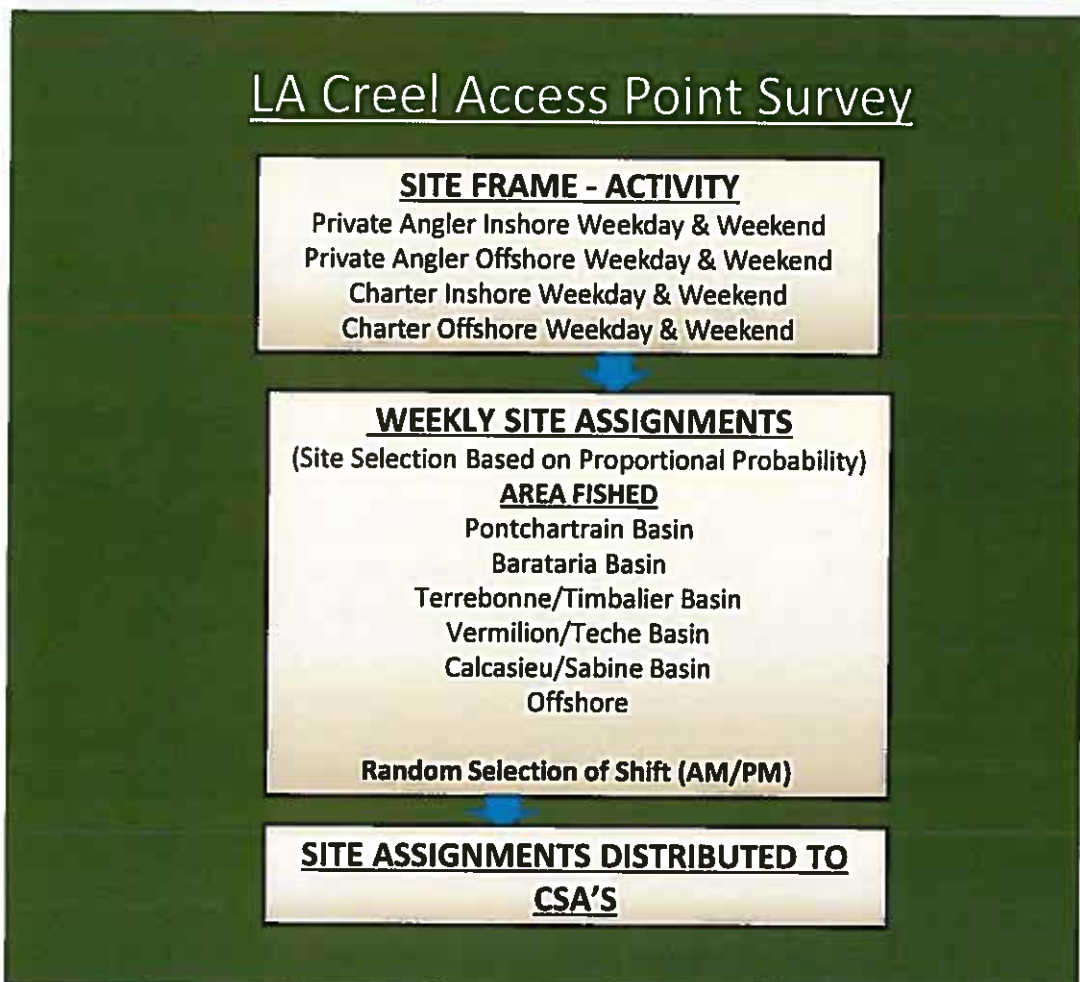
- An access-point survey to collect harvest rate
- A weekly phone/email survey to estimate total effort

Separate biological sampling from LA Creel recreational landing survey





11



LA Creel Access Point Survey

BASIN	WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTION	
	Weekdays	Weekends
Lake Pontchartrain	2	4
Upper Barataria-Mississippi River	2	2
Lower Barataria-Mississippi River	2	4
Terrebonne-Timbalier	2	3
Vermillion-Teche-Mermentau	2	2
Sabine-Calcasieu	2	4



Trips Surveyed Dockside

CHARTER BOAT				
AREA FISHED	2015		2016	
	# Fishing Trips Surveyed	% Area Fished	# Fishing Trips Surveyed	% Area Fished
STATE TERRITORIAL WATERS	1,415	79%	1,210	83%
FEDERAL EEZ WATERS	381	21%	254	17%
TOTAL	1,796	100%	1,464	100%

PRIVATE ANGLER				
AREA FISHED	2015		2016	
	# Fishing Trips Surveyed	% Area Fished	# Fishing Trips Surveyed	% Area Fished
STATE TERRITORIAL WATERS	8,847	96%	8,247	95%
FEDERAL EEZ WATERS	415	4%	410	5%
TOTAL	9,262	100%	8,657	100%

GRAND TOTAL	11,058	10,121
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NUMBER OF ANGLERS INTERVIEWED DOCKSIDE

MODE	2015	2016
Private Inshore	19,640	18,187
Shore	2,455	2,380
Private Offshore	1,861	1,735
Charter	6,562	5,361
Grand Total	30,717	27,752



LA Creel Effort Survey

PRIVATE ANGLER FRAME (Weekly)

(Random Draw of Licensed Anglers)

400 – ROLP*

1,200 - NON-ROLP

300 - SW Anglers North Region

300 - SW Anglers Southeast Region

300 - SW Anglers Southwest

Region

300 - SW Out-Of-State

CHARTER FRAME

(Weekly)

(Random Draw of Licensed Charter Captains)

30% - ROLP**

10% - NON-ROLP



PHONE/EMAIL SURVEY

(Contracted to SCPDC)

PHONE/EMAIL SURVEY

(Collected by CSA Personnel)

- * 400 Private Angler ROLP adjusts to 800 during Red Snapper EEZ Season
- ** 30% Charter ROLP increases to 100% during Red Snapper EEZ Season

LA Creel Effort Data

Weekly Draw

PRIVATE ANGLER WEEKLY DRAW			CHARTER/FOR-HIRE WEEKLY DRAW		
REGION		# DRAWN	# IN FRAME	% DRAWN	# IN FRAME
ROLP		* 400	19,220	* 30%	155
Out-Of-State		300	443,966	10%	741
Louisiana Resident				TOTAL	896
	North	300		* 100% OF ROLP DRAWN DURING RED SNAPPER EEZ SEASON	
	Southeast	300			
	Southwest	300			
TOTAL		1,600	463,186		
* 800 RED SNAPPER EEZ SEASON					



Effort Survey Contacts

EFFORT SURVEY CONTACTS		
MODE	2015	2016
CHARTER BOAT	2,449	3,650
PRIVATE/SHORE	40,895	42,392
TOTAL	43,344	46,042



LA Creel Landing Estimate Calculation

ACCESS POINT SURVEY
(Catch/Angler/Species)

EFFORT – PHONE/EMAIL SURVEY
(Angler Trips)

CPUE BY AREA FISHED
(ROLP/Non-ROLP)

Private Angler Inshore
Private Angler Offshore
Charter Inshore
Charter Offshore

ANGLER TRIPS BY AREA FISHED

Non-ROLP

Resident Angler North
Resident Angler Southeast
Resident Angler Southwest
Out-Of-State

ROLP

OUT-OF-FRAME PROPORTION

LANDING ESTIMATE BY AREA FISHED

Private Angler Inshore
Private Angler Offshore
Charter Inshore
Charter Offshore

WEEKLY ADJUSTED LANDING ESTIMATE



Timeline of Estimates

- Effort Survey for the previous Week
- Monday (Week 1) – List of Random Private Anglers sent to SCPDC and Charter Captain List sent to Coastal Study Areas for effort survey of previous week (Week 0)
- During Week 1 Access Point Survey Data is being Quality Controlled and Finalized for Week 0.
- Monday Afternoon (Week 1) – Effort E-mails sent to Anglers and Captains.
- Wednesday through Weekend (Week 1) – Effort phone calls conducted if E-mail survey not completed.



Timeline of Estimates (con't.)

- Tuesday (Week 2) – Effort phone call and e-mail data is received at LDWF from SCPDC.
- Tuesday - Thursday (Week 2) – Further QA/QC of dockside access point and effort data occurs. Estimation programs are run.
- Thursday (Week 2) Estimate is generated for Week 0 fishing.
- Weekly estimates are provided but are for the fishing week from 2 weeks prior.
- In time sensitive situations the timeline does have some flexibility.

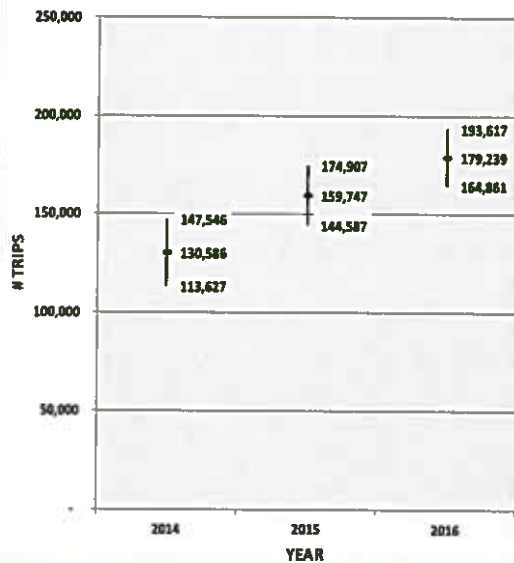


Example

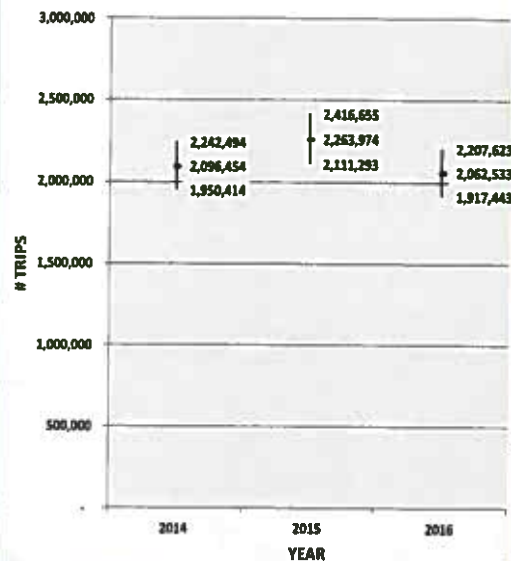
- A red snapper landed during the week of May 29 through June 4 was available in our estimates produced on June 15.

Angler Trips By Year

LA Creel Estimated Angler Fishing Trips by Year
(Charter)

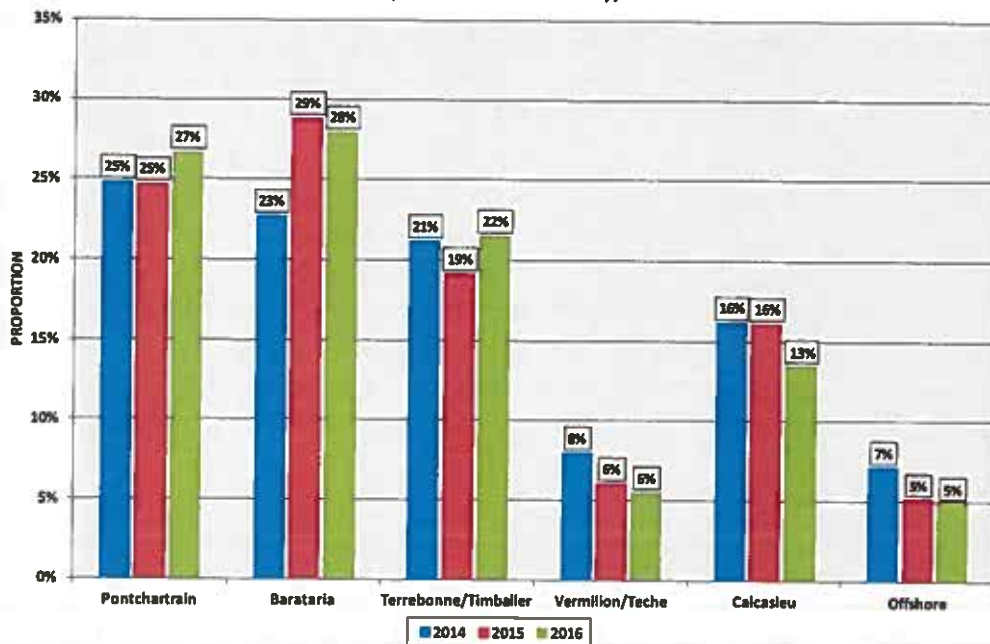


LA Creel Estimated Angler Fishing Trips by Year
(Private Angler)

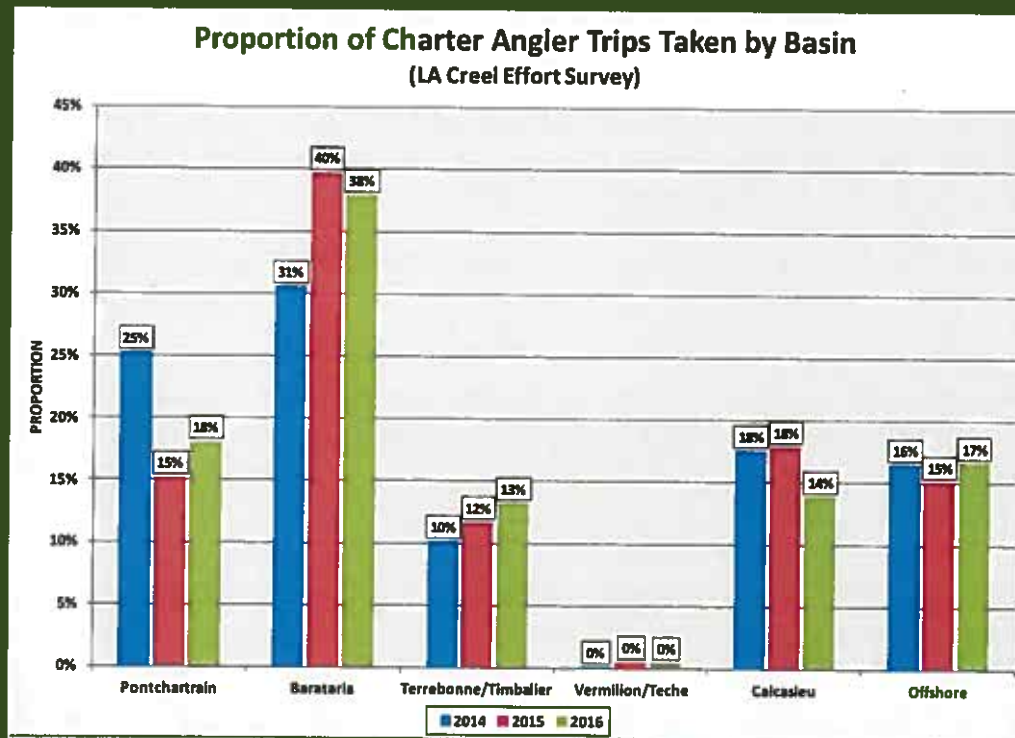


Proportion of Private Trips By Basin

Proportion of Private Angler Trips Taken by Basin
(LA Creel Effort Survey)



Proportion of Charter Trips By Basin



Landings Estimates

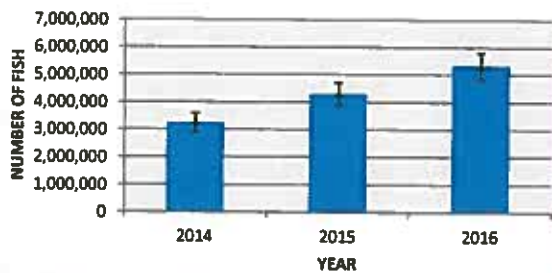
INSHORE SPECIES			
SPECIES	2014	2015	2016
Spotted Seatrout	3,219,972	4,251,905	5,269,644
Red Drum	1,280,428	1,239,226	1,040,586
Sand Seatrout	524,956	347,797	352,012
Sheepshead	256,293	251,681	220,200
Southern Flounder	208,514	216,935	221,897
Atlantic Croaker	234,865	208,476	149,035
Black Drum	216,344	219,282	137,590
Largemouth Bass	55,616	100,243	176,944
Gafftopsail Catfish	65,793	77,562	48,555
Blue Catfish	40,072	58,159	58,263

OFFSHORE SPECIES			
SPECIES	2014	2015	2016
Gray Snapper	105,746	103,557	97,265
Red Snapper	97,645	106,134	89,183
Spotted Seatrout	10,637	39,056	56,028
Dolphin	30,494	58,543	1,208
Blackfin Tuna	31,116	25,001	13,591
Yellowfin Tuna	14,198	22,913	28,046
Cobia	14,817	5,923	11,922
Sand Seatrout	7,230	20,400	2,448
Greater Amberjack	7,252	10,906	8,310
Sheepshead	5,324	5,804	4,958

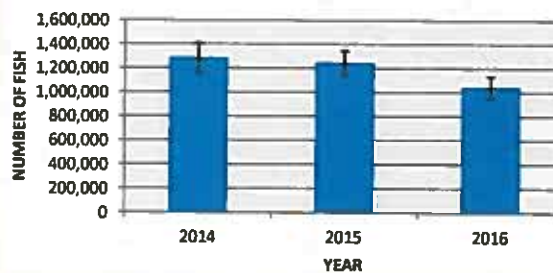


LA Creel Estimates

**STATEWIDE LANDING ESTIMATES (95% CL)
SPOTTED SEATROUT**

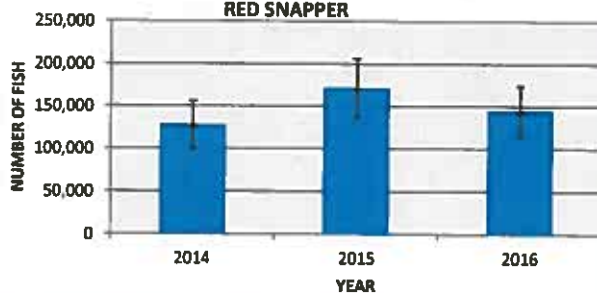


**STATEWIDE LANDING ESTIMATES (95% CL)
RED DRUM**

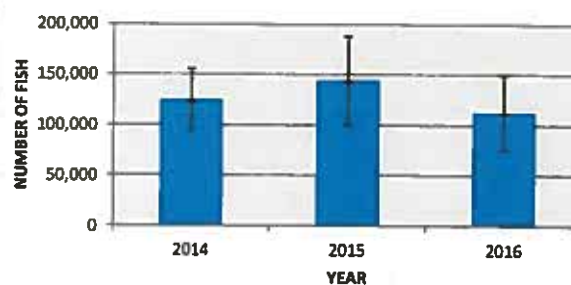


LA Creel Estimates

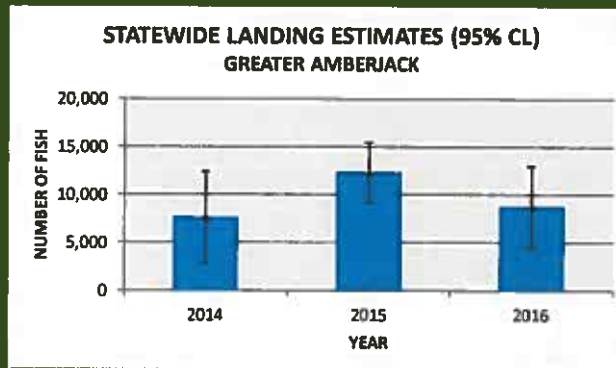
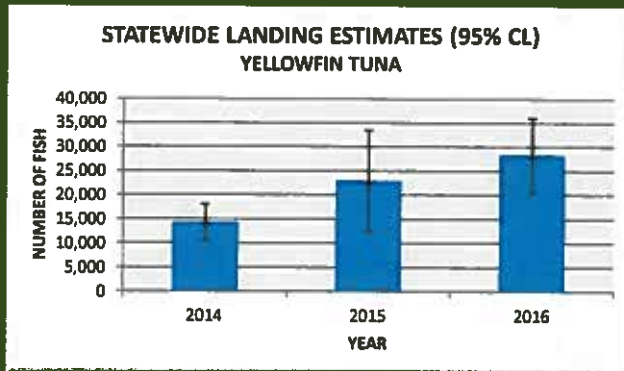
**STATEWIDE LANDING ESTIMATES (95% CL)
RED SNAPPER**



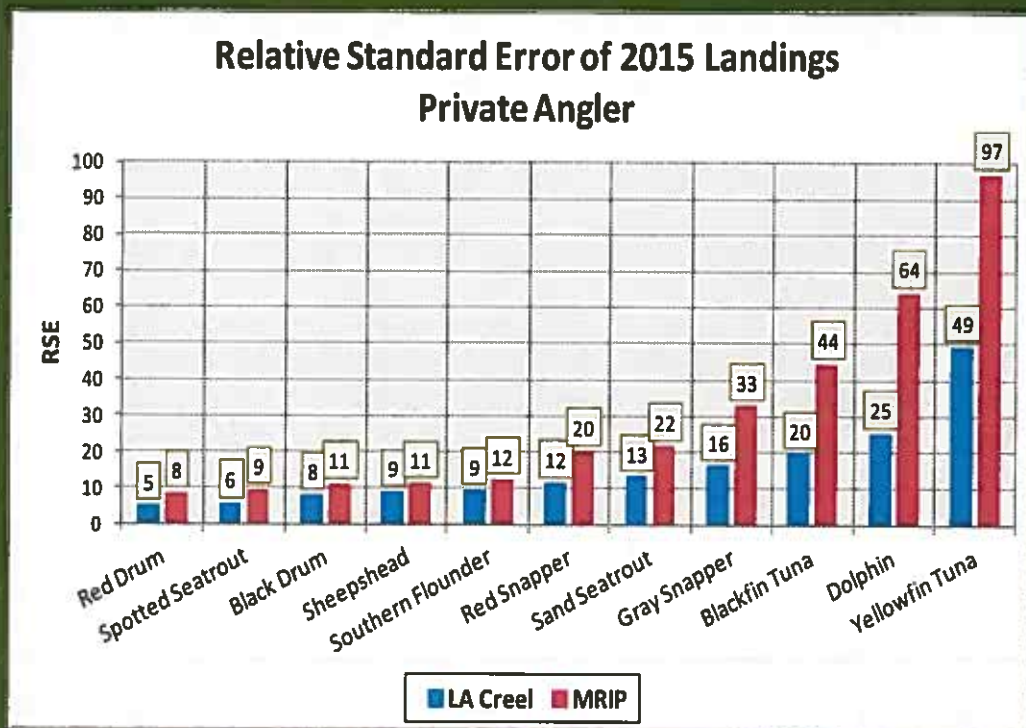
**STATEWIDE LANDING ESTIMATES (95% CL)
GRAY SNAPPER**



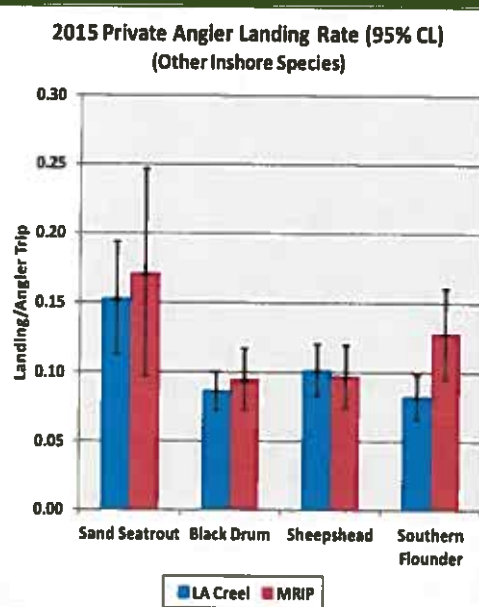
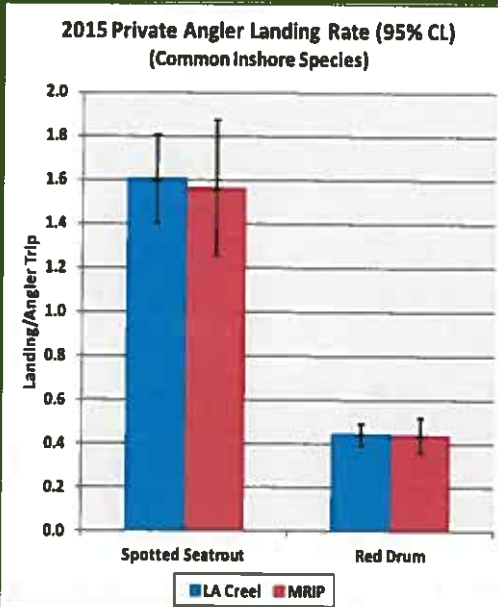
LA Creel Estimates



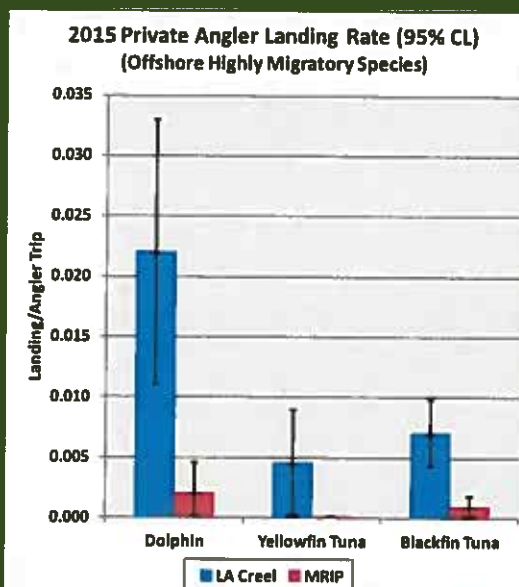
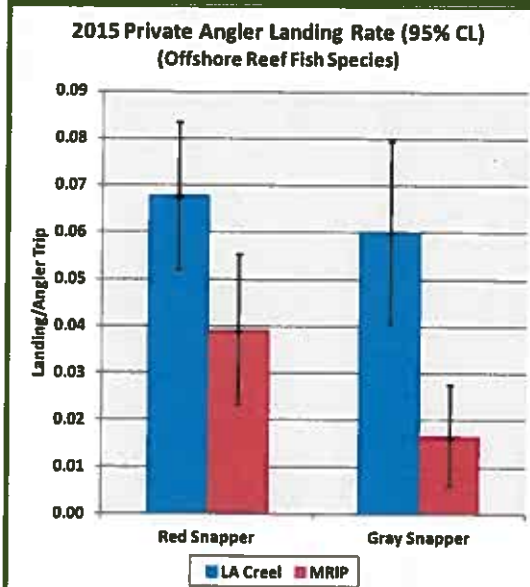
Benefits to Stratified Offshore Sites & ROI.P



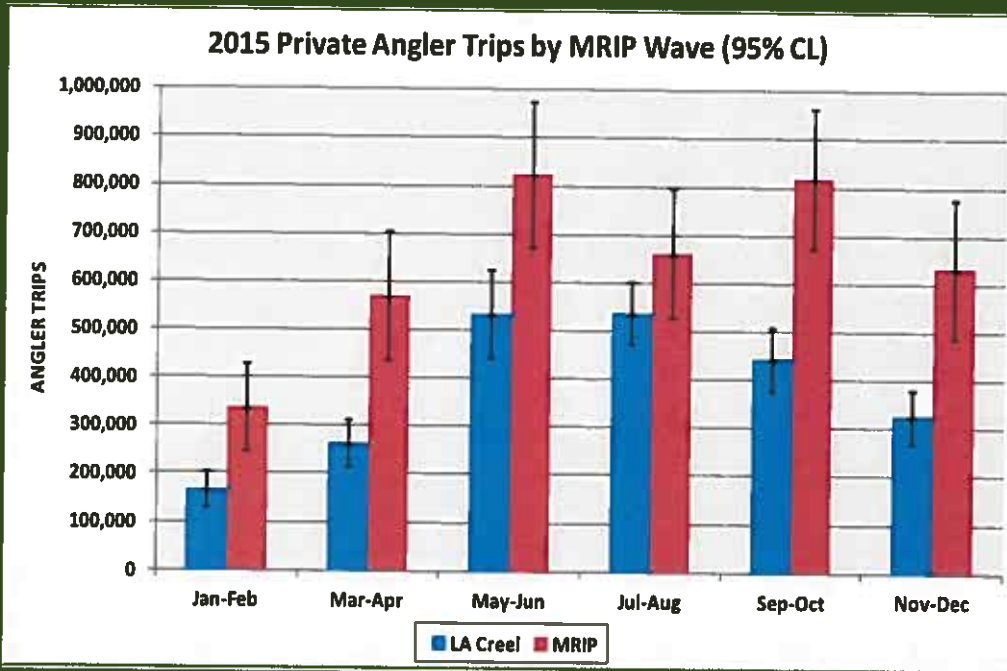
LA CREEL INSHORE SPECIES



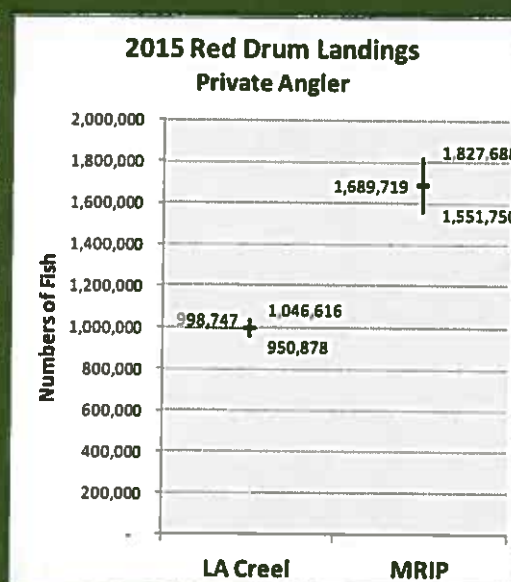
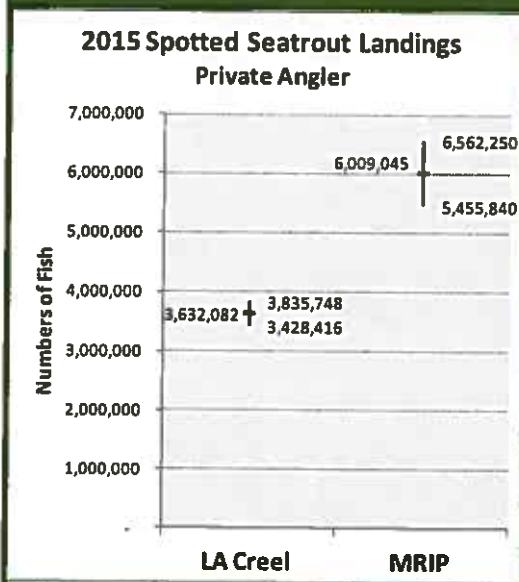
LA CREEL Reef Fish and Highly Migratory Fish



Comparison of LA Creel to MRIP Angler Trips

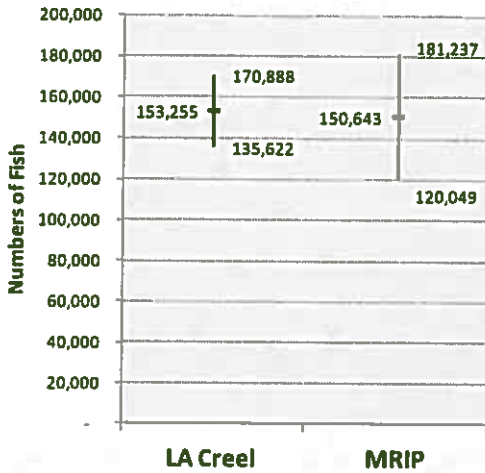


Inshore Species

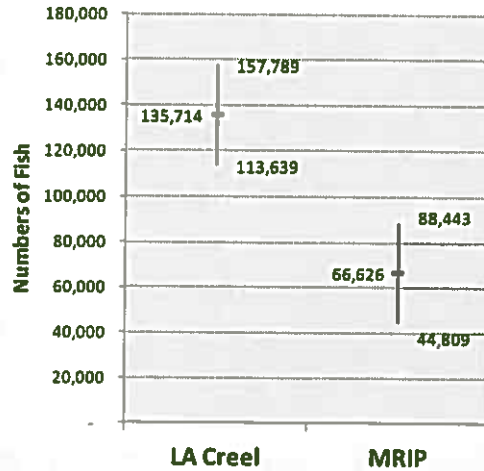


Reef Fish Species

**2015 Red Snapper Landings
Private Angler**

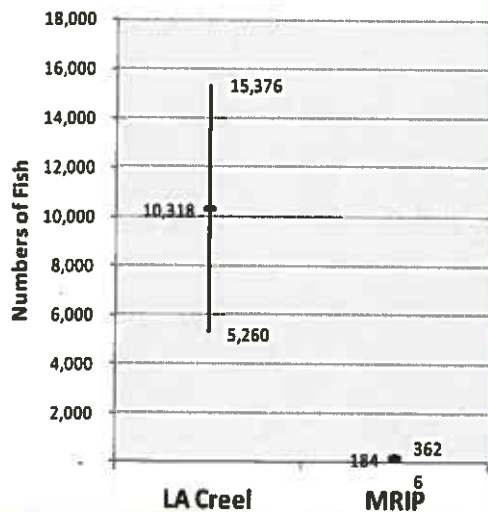


**2015 Gray Snapper Landings
Private Angler**

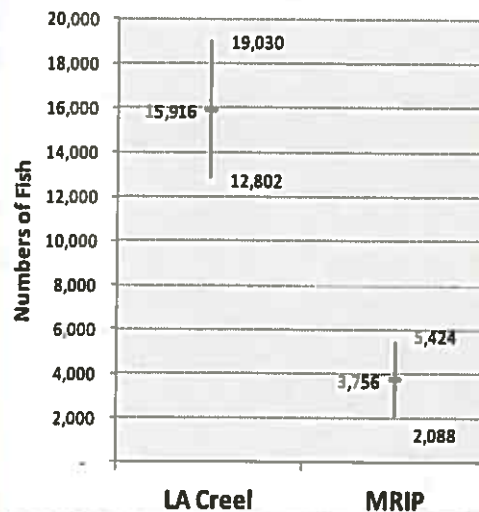


Highly Migratory Species

**2015 Yellowfin Tuna Landings
Private Angler**



**2015 Blackfin Tuna Landings
Private Angler**



LA CREEL SURVEY BENEFITS

- Offshore and Inshore Strata provides more representative and precise landing estimates
- Saltwater licensed anglers and ROLP permittees surveyed for effort results in greater precision and provides efficiency in collection of estimates
- Near real-time estimates (weekly) provides timely management information
- Increased estimate precision provides confidence in estimates
- Basin level estimates provides regional management options
- Flexible and efficient survey design
- Representative biological samples by separating biological sampling from creel survey



QUESTIONS?





State of Louisiana
WILDLIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION

CHAD J COURVILLE
CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM D. HOGAN
VICE CHAIRMAN
ANGELA E. THOMAS
SECRETARY

EDWIN "PAT" MANUEL
ROBERT "BOBBY" SAMANIE, III
JERRI G. SMITKO
ALFRED "AL" SUNSERI
BART R. YAKUPZACK

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross Jr.
Secretary of Commerce
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

On behalf of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and its members, I would like to thank you, your staff, Congressman Scalise, Congressman Graves, and Congressmen from the other Gulf States and beyond for the leadership you all have taken with regards to the Red Snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. The collective effort resulting in the "Temporary rule; re-opening" published in the Federal Register on 6/19/2017 will certainly provide additional opportunity to Louisiana's private recreational fleet, as well as provide an economic boost to gulf coastal communities.

On June 12, 2017, the LWFC acted in anticipation of the action noted above in favor of additional opportunity for Louisiana anglers in Federal waters. The LWFC also gave the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries authority to negotiate on our behalf in conjunction with the current Department of Commerce offer upon prior notice to the LWFC Chairman when the final rule was determined. In those actions, the LWFC made a commitment to use the La CREEL program to ensure Louisiana would manage our harvest consistent with good conservation practices and consistent with the intent of this Department of Commerce action.

While we are appreciative of this opportunity, the LWFC recognizes this is a temporary fix to a long-standing problem. We look forward to working with you and your staff, the other Gulf States, and our Congressional delegation to move toward a permanent solution for all Gulf States, whereby Louisiana will have the ability to responsibly manage the reef fish stock located off the Louisiana coast, ensure the long-term sustainability of those stocks, and responsible use by Louisiana anglers.

Thank you for your service and dedication to our country,

Chad J Courville
LWFC Commission Chairman

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1806
June 28, 2017

Chad J. Courville
Chairman
Louisiana Fish and Wildlife Commission
309 La Rue France, Suite 201
Lafayette, LA 70508

Mr. Courville:

I want to thank you for your work with our office and the Department of Commerce to reopen the red snapper fishery on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from June 16, 2017, through Labor Day, September 4, 2017.

While we are all appreciative of this result, we share your sensitivity to conserving the species. It's important to recognize the possibility of overfishing and work together to ensure that does not happen. The Louisiana Fish and Wildlife Commission (LFWC) made a commitment to use the La CREEL program to ensure that Louisiana would manage the red snapper harvest consistent with good conservation practices and to modify the snapper season once Louisiana has reached their total allowable catch (TAC), even if the TAC is reached before Labor Day of the extended season.

As we progress through the extended season I encourage you to direct the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to inform the public of the total landing numbers throughout the 39 day season. This communication effort will ensure all fishers will have access to timely information and no one will be surprised by any required changes in the 2017 fishing season. Working to avoid confusion and misinterpretation of how the LFWC plans to implement the Department of Commerce's temporary rule is critical to responsible resource management.

Again, thank you for your willingness to cooperate with our office and the Department of Commerce to reopen the red snapper fishery for recreational anglers. I look forward to working with you as we develop a permanent solution.

Sincerely



Garret Graves
United States Congressman



Louisiana's 2017 Recreational Red Snapper Season Update

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Baton Rouge, LA

July 6, 2017

2017 Red Snapper Allocations

	GULF	LOUISIANA	
2017 ABC =	13,740,000		
Commercial ACL =	7,007,000		
Recreational ACL =	6,733,000	1,045,887	15.5%
For-Hire ACL =	2,848,000	330,290	
For-Hire ACT =	2,278,000		
Private ACL =	3,885,000	715,171	
Private ACT =	3,108,000		
Overage =	129,906	1,094	
Private Adjusted ACL =	3,755,094		
Private Adjusted ACT =	3,004,075		
Total Rec Adjusted ACL =	6,603,094	1,044,793	



Louisiana's 2017 Red Snapper Season Estimates

LOUISIANA'S 2017 RED SNAPPER SEASON LANDINGS

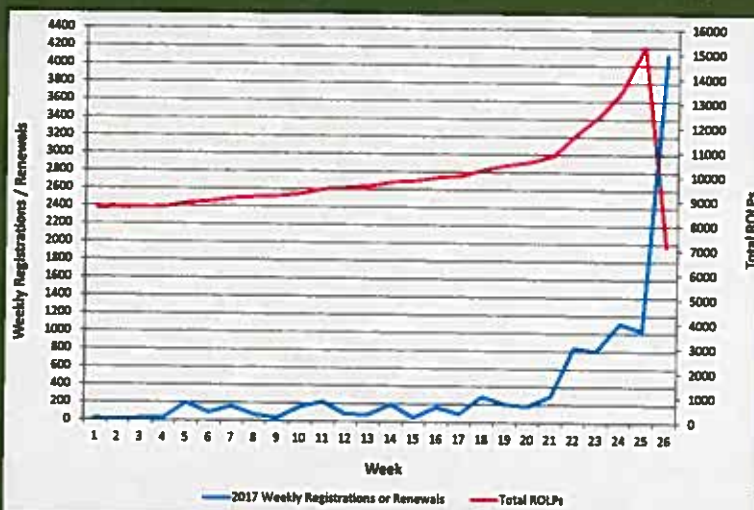
Federal EEZ Season	OPEN	CLOSE	DAYS	AVG WT	# FISH	POUNDS
Private Angler	June 1, 2017	June 3, 2017	3	8	3,198	25,527
Charter	June 1, 2017	July 19, 2017	49	8	12,896	103,168
Federal EEZ Season 2						
Private Angler	June 16, 2017	TBD	11 (6)	8	11,548	75,216

State Waters Season 1	OPEN	CLOSE	DAYS	AVG WT	# FISH	POUNDS
Private Angler	February 1, 2017	June 15, 2017	134	8	30,714	229,040
Charter	February 1, 2017	June 15, 2017	134	8	13,869	110,365
State Waters Season 2	OPEN	CLOSE	DAYS	AVG WT	# FISH	POUNDS
Private Angler						
Charter						

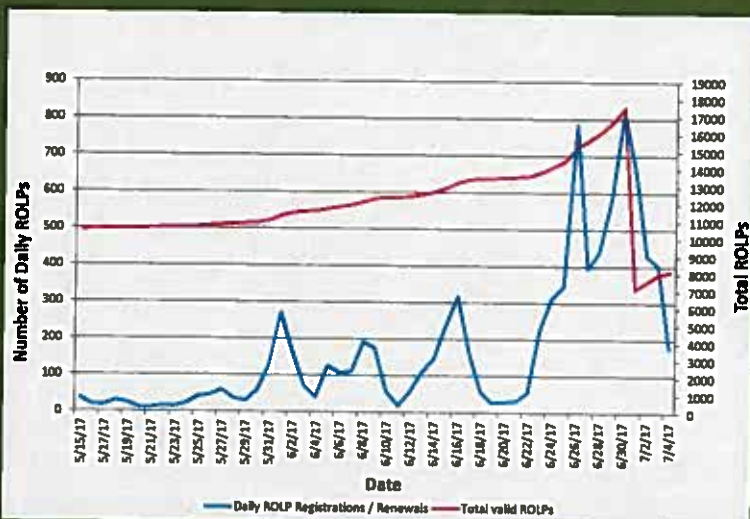
LOUISIANA STATE WATERS SEASON PROVIDED	+ DAYS	% FISH	% POUNDS
PRIVATE ANGLER FISHING OPPORTUNITY	134	67.6	69.5
CHARTER FISHING OPPORTUNITY	134	51.8	51.7



ROLP Permits Registered or Renewed Weekly



ROLP Permits Registered or Renewed Daily

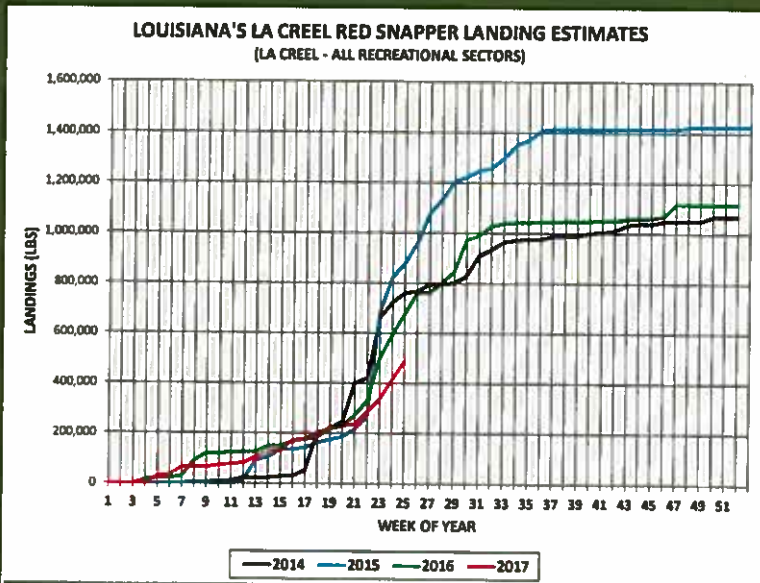


Louisiana Red Snapper Landing Rates in Pounds from Previous Years

CHARTER			
2017 For-Hire Limit =		330,290	
	2014	2015	2016
MAX Weekly EEZ Landing =	23,819	33,752	33,484
Derived Daily EEZ Landing =	3,403	4,822	4,783
PRIVATE ANGLER			
2017 Private Angler Limit =		715,171	
	2014	2015	2016
MAX Weekly EEZ Landing =	217,564	383,282	136,371
Derived Daily EEZ Landing =	31,081	54,755	19,482



Louisiana's 2017 Red Snapper Landings compared to Previous Years

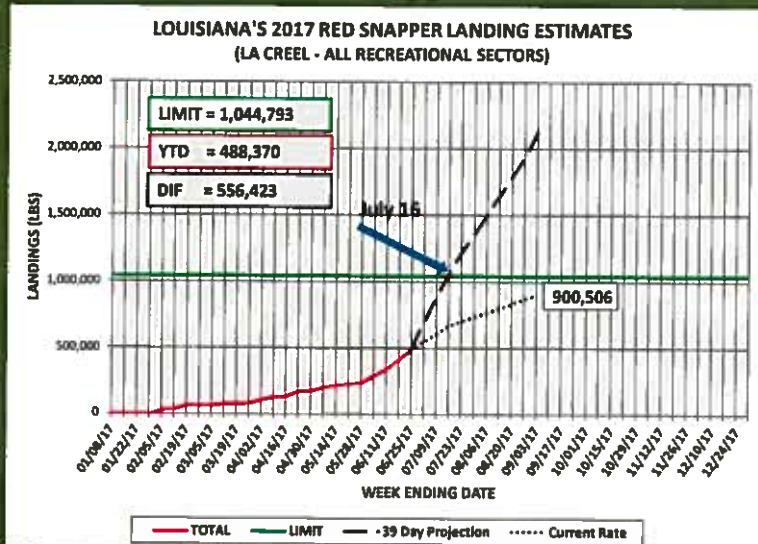


Projections are based upon the harvest rates we have observed and there is some uncertainty around projecting those rates forward.

• Rates could be higher or lower depending on a variety of factors (weather, availability of other species, socio-economic factors, assumption of effort, assumption of avg. fish weight, etc.)



Louisiana's 2017 Red Snapper Season Estimates



* Projection and current rate includes continued harvest of federally permitted charter vessels through July 19.

Red Snapper Landings Projections

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Projection (all sectors)	Current Rate Projection	Data Type
21	5/22/2017	5/28/2017	239,330	239,330	Actual
22	5/29/2017	6/4/2017	288,542	288,542	Actual
23	6/5/2017	6/11/2017	339,406	339,406	Actual
24	6/12/2017	6/18/2017	417,771	417,771	Actual
25	6/19/2017	6/25/2017	488,370	488,370	Actual
26	6/26/2017	7/2/2017	694,903	547,638	Projection
27	7/3/2017	7/9/2017	884,763	606,906	Projection
28	7/10/2017	7/16/2017	1,057,950	666,174	Projection
29	7/17/2017	7/23/2017	1,214,463	699,650	Projection
30	7/24/2017	7/30/2017	1,357,803	733,126	Projection
31	7/31/2017	8/6/2017	1,501,143	766,602	Projection
32	8/7/2017	8/13/2017	1,644,482	800,078	Projection
33	8/14/2017	8/20/2017	1,787,822	833,554	Projection
34	8/21/2017	8/27/2017	1,931,162	867,030	Projection
35	8/28/2017	9/3/2017	2,121,115	900,506	Projection

Projections are based upon the harvest rates we have observed and there is some uncertainty around projecting those rates forward.

*Rates could be higher or lower depending on a variety of factors (weather, availability of other species, socio-economic factors, assumption of effort, assumption of avg. fish weight, etc.)



Questions?





JUNE GULF COUNCIL MEETING RECAP

Patrick Banks/Myron Fischer | July 6, 2017

Requirement to Possess Descending Devices or Venting Tools Onboard

- Reviewed framework action that considers requiring vessels fishing for reef fish to possess descending devices or venting tools onboard.
- Intent is to reduce mortality of fish that are caught and discarded.



Carryover of Unharvested Quota

- Reviewed a generic amendment that considers modifying the acceptable biological catch control rule by allowing the unharvested portion of the annual catch limit in a year to be added to the following year's acceptable biological catch.
- Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will review draft document before Council discusses it again at a future meeting.



Stock Assessment Schedule

- Requested the Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) to prioritize the 2018 and 2019 stock assessment schedule as follows:
 - 2018: complete gray snapper, MRIP calibrations, king mackerel, gray triggerfish, cobia, and red grouper
 - 2019: complete scamp, vermillion snapper, yellowedge grouper, tilefish, and Spanish mackerel



Final Action: Reef Fish Amendment 44

- Standardizes minimum stock size threshold for certain reef fish species.
- Selected the most lenient option which would set the minimum stock size threshold for gag, red grouper, red snapper, vermillion snapper, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, and hogfish equal to 50% of the biomass at maximum sustainable yield.
- Not expected to affect management actions as fishing is primarily constrained by the overfishing definition.



Final Action: Reef Fish Amendment 47

- Selected a proxy for vermillion snapper maximum sustainable yield based on fishing at the fishing mortality rate associated with 30% spawning potential ratio.
- Set annual catch limit for 2017-2021 at 3.11 million pounds (constant catch average for these five years when fishing at 75% of the maximum sustainable yield proxy.)



Final Action: Modification to the Number of Unrigged Hooks on Bottom Longline Vessels

- Voted to allow bottom longline vessels to carry an unlimited number of hooks, of which no more than 750 can be rigged or fished at any time.



Modifications to Federal For-Hire and Private Angler Red Snapper Annual Catch Targets

- Reviewed draft framework action that considers changing the buffers between the red snapper annual catch limits and annual catch targets for federal for-hire and private angler components of the recreational sector.



Greater Amberjack Annual Catch Limits and Management Measures

- Addressed a draft framework action that considers modifying the greater amberjack rebuilding time period, annual catch limits and targets, and recreational season and size limit.
- Recent stock assessment determined that the greater amberjack stock continues to be overfished and to experience overfishing and is not making adequate progress towards rebuilding.



Reef Fish Amendment 36B: Commercial Reef Fish Individual Quota Program Modifications

- Reviewed draft options paper which considers program participation, distribution of shares from non-activated accounts, restrictions on share and allocation transfers, and allocation caps.
- Added an alternative to consider an adaptive management redistribution method based on cyclical redistribution that depends on future fishing participation.



Amendment 41: Federal Charter For-Hire Management

- Reviewed draft amendment and selected preferred alternatives that would establish a mandatory permit fishing quota program for red snapper, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish.
- Also chose a preferred alternative that would redistribute a portion of shares in cycles of progressively lengthening years through the first three cycles of the program.



Final Action: August Gulf Council Meeting August 7 - 10

- Final Action – Framework Action – Greater Amberjack ACL and Management Measures
- Final Action on Referendum Requirements for Reef Fish Amendment 42 – Reef Fish Management for Headboat Survey Vessels
- Final Action on Referendum Requirements for Reef Fish Amendment 41– Allocation-Based Management for Federally Permitted Charter Vessels
- Update and Next Steps for Generic For-hire Electronic Reporting Amendment



QUESTIONS?



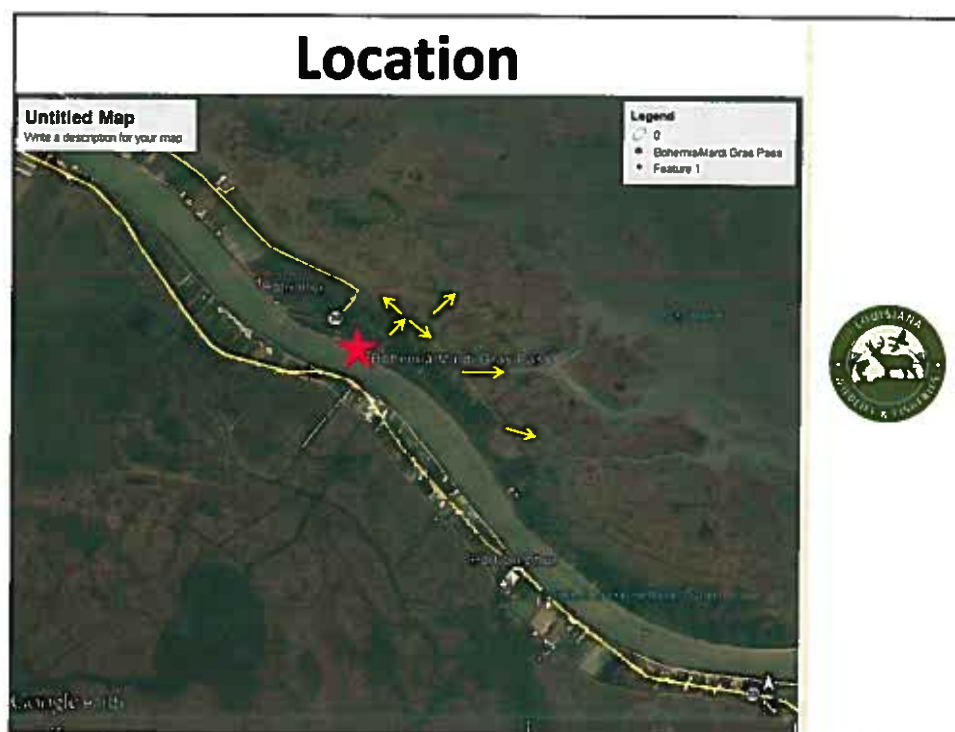


Bohemia Salinity Control Structure

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting | July 6, 2017

Location





Purpose

Designed as a salinity control structure to pass fresh water eastward to coastal marshes

“ . . . for the protection of the oyster, waterfowl, and/or fur production in the Bohemia area.”

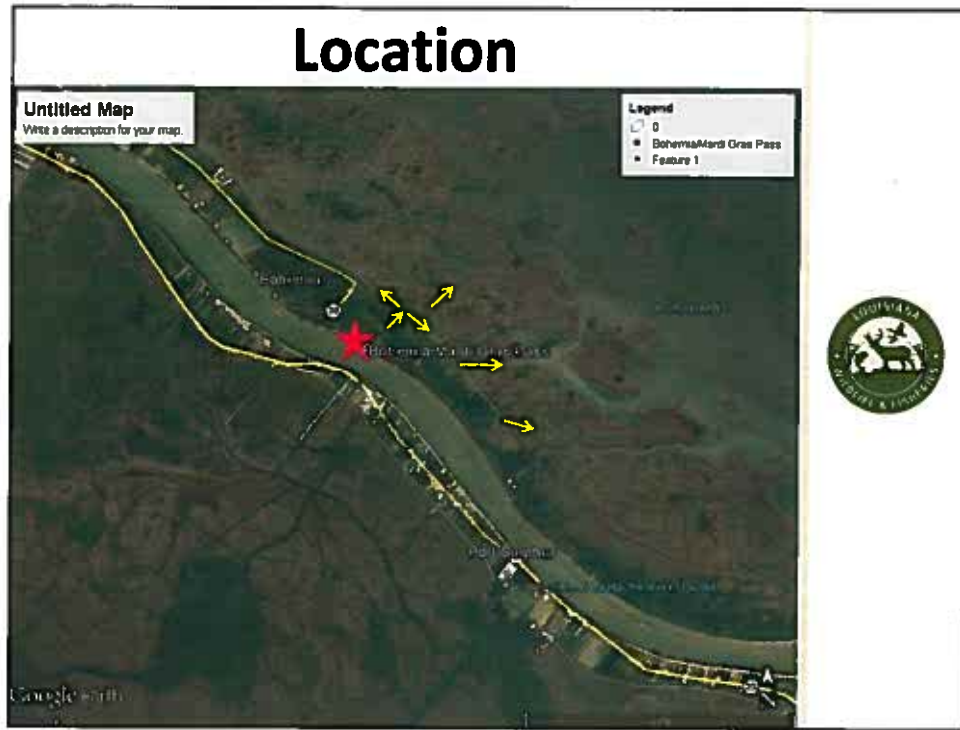
- Dr. Ted Ford
LWFC Meeting
New Orleans, LA
April 1969



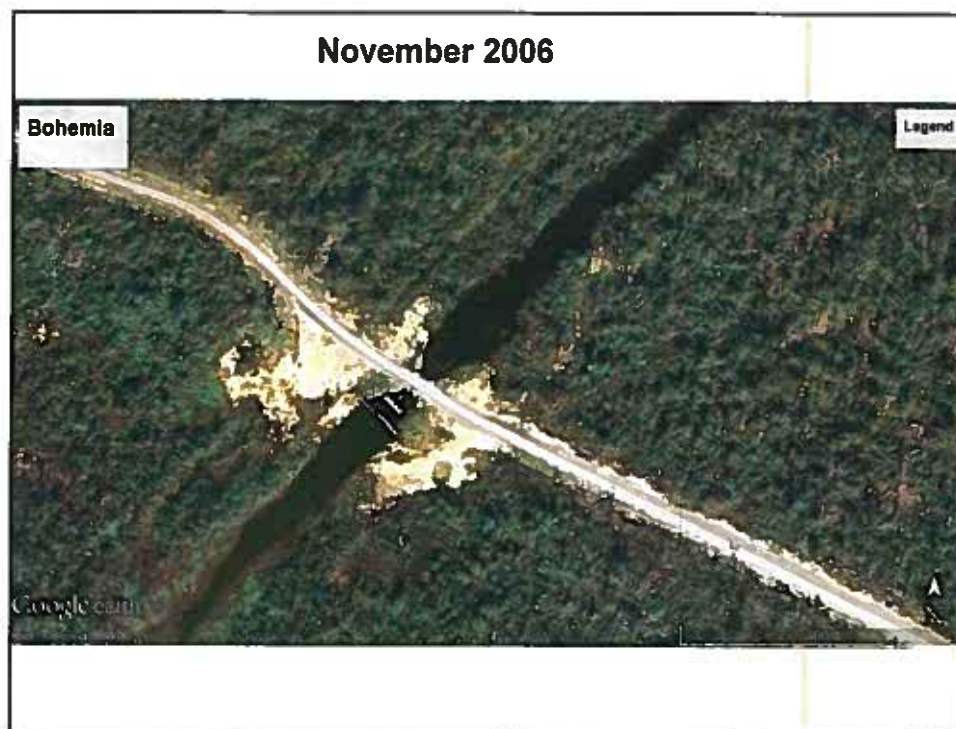
Historical Record

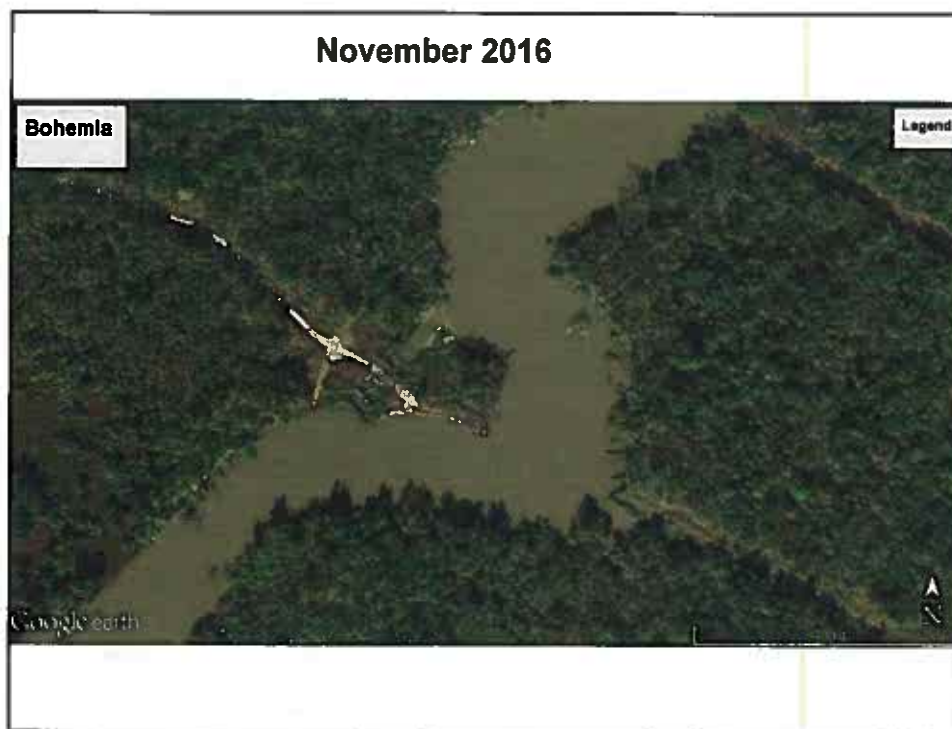
- Suggested as early as 1961 by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and MS River Commission
- Plaquemines Parish requested LWFC cooperation in 1968
- LWFC approved the cooperation in April 1969
- Act 54 of 1969 authorized state expenditures on construction
 - \$375k by LWFC for ¼ of the total cost (\$1.5M)
 - Plaquemines Parish ¼, USACE ½
- Structure designed as 4 gated culverts within the east side river levee
- Date stamp on structure indicates constructed in 1970
- 1990 Plaquemines received a permit to renovate the structure
- 1993 report by LDNR – Coastal Restoration Division documented the structure was in disrepair
- Breached during Mardi Gras 2012 (Mardi Gras Pass)
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation extensive report
- Estimated to be flowing nearly 30,000 cfs during high river stages, although normally much lower











Fisheries Information

- Salinities depressed over public oyster grounds
 - Salinities dropping pre-breach, and more pronounced post-breach
 - Other influences on salinity
- Fisheries value and landings overall has decreased post-breach
 - Crabs down
 - Oysters down
 - Shrimp up
- Changes in fisheries cannot be assumed to be caused by the Bohemia breach
 - Caernarvon, Fort St. Phillip influence
- May be "good" for other species
- Evaluation of fisheries changes still underway
- Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and OTF interested in closing the breach and bringing freshwater flow back under control
 - OTF putting up \$200k for E&D
 - OTF requesting financial help from state and feds



Questions

